THE HISTORY OF FREDERICK the FORSAKEN.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

A

HISTORY

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OF

FREDERICK the Forſaken.

INTERSPERSED

With Anecdotes relative to ſeveral Perſonages of Rank and Faſhion in *England*.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

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THE HISTORY OF FREDERICK the FORSAKEN.

IT is a uſual cuſtom for writers to begin their works with an endeavour to make a party in their favour, either by flattering the taſte of their readers, recommending the enſuing pages, or by ſaying a few ſmart things, at firſt, in order to dazzle the judgment, and thereby prevent it from obſerving ſo minutely, the many faults with which a work of any length may be ſuppoſed to abound. I have the modeſty to think theſe arts are neceſſary for myſelf, but as I am of opinion that it will be curioſity to know the events of the life of a man famous for many turns of fortune, which will lead thoſe who honour the following pages with a peruſal, and no regard to the relater, I think it unjuſt to debar them that ſatisfaction, by detaining them from a particular acquaintance with the hero of the enſuing ſtory.

For the better underſtanding the real ſituation in which he makes his firſt appearance, it is neceſſary to premiſe, that in a certain village in the north riding of Yorkſhire, there has been for many years paſt a free-ſchool of great repute, which, tho' maintaining many on its foundation, has yet been honour'd with giving the firſt principles of literature to ſeveral men of large fortune. If it were of any moment in the preſent caſe, I could produce a liſt of names made conſpicuous by the honour of their poſſeſſors, who receiv'd the rudiments of their ſhining virtues at this place, but as I have an averſion to prolixity, it ſhall ſuffice, that ſome years ſince a very worthy man, nam'd Thomas Goodman, poſſeſs'd the place of maſter, which he diſcharg'd ſo much to the ſatisfaction of all, that it was uſually ſaid, his name truly expreſs'd what he was: his character was equally good in every other part of his conduct: his family conſiſted of a wife and one daughter (at the commencement of this hiſtory, but an infant) to whom his tenderneſs was look'd on as a pattern worthy the imitation of every huſband; nor was Mrs. Goodman one tittle behind her huſband in thoſe virtues which ought to diſtinguiſh the moſt amiable part of the creation.---- I could fill ſeveral pages with the praiſes of this worthy pair, but enough has been ſaid, or at leaſt imagin'd, to paſs for a conviction that they were far from proving, that,

Love vows are now all cant and jargon.

One fine ſummer's evening as this happy pair were ſitting under the ſhade of ſome jeſamines and woodbines, which form'd a rural arch before the door of their dwelling, obſerving with pleaſure the ſports of their little family, who, loos'd from the bondage

bondage of their ſtudies, were diverting themſelves on the ſpacious green which fronted the houſe, they ſaw a well-looking man riding towards them; this object wou'd hardly have excited their curioſity, had they not at the ſame time perceiv'd a little boy with him, whom they did not doubt but was to be added to their family.--- They were ſoon confirm'd in this conjecture, by the horſeman's riding up to the door, and enquiring for Mr. Goodman; 'I am the per-'ſon (ſaid he) and if I am not miſtaken, this little 'Gentleman and I ſhall be better acquainted.' Then taking him off the horſe deſir'd his conductor to alight, and walk in; which requeſt was inſtantly complied with.

Mrs. Goodman gueſſing by the ſtranger's appearance, that he had rode ſome miles, inſtantly produced a bottle of excellent ale, and ſome plumb-cake (of which ſhe conſtantly kept ſome in the houſe, to reward the goodneſs, or ſooth the grievances of the younger ſort) for little maſter: and after Mr. Goodman had drank to their better acquaintance, and been pledg'd by the ſtranger, they proceeded to talk of the buſineſs which occaſion'd this their firſt meeting.

'Tho' I am hitherto a ſtranger to your perſon '(began the viſitor) I am not ſo to your character, 'which has made me chooſe to place this young 'gentleman with you, rather than with ſeveral 'others I have heard of.' Here Mr. Goodman bowed and was going to ſpeak, when the ſtranger proceeded thus. 'There are ſome reaſons which make 'it neceſſary he ſhou'd be with people, whoſe tenderneſs to him may be as much depended on, as 'their care to inſtruct him; he will never be taken 'away at the times of holidays (you ſhall have an 'extraordinary allowance on that account) the care

of providing his cloaths, and attending him in caſe of ſickneſs, muſt devolve on you; for tho' he has powerful relations, yet none who can at preſent acknowledge him; name your terms, and I will now advance one quarter's payment, and ſhall punctually come every quarter, and do the ſame, that you may ſtill have ſecurity in your hands, nor fancy, becauſe his birth is obſcur'd, that any trick is intended.'

'Your appearance (return'd Mr. Goodman) and the offers you make, exclude every thought of this ſort; tho' I cannot help wondering that there are parents, who can abandon, as I may call it, ſuch a child as this: but I and my wife will ſupply that defect, he ſhall be a huſband for our little Nancy; what ſay you, my dear,' (turning to Mrs. Goodman, who was looking with tender attention on the little ſtranger,) 'ſhall not we permit this ſweet boy to ſhare in a particular manner our affection with our dear girl?"

'Were it not your deſire, I believe it wou'd be hard to prevent it,' anſwer'd ſhe, 'ſince I never yet ſaw a child, with whom I was ſo much delighted at firſt ſight.'

Indeed, the appearance of the little fellow might excuſe this early prepoſſeſſion. He was between three and four years of age, tall and excellently proportion'd; a fine open countenance; a complexion exceeding fair, beautifully contrafted with the blooming roſes in his cheeks, and the bright redneſs of his lips, which opening in ſweet innocent ſmiles diſcover'd two rows of little white even teeth, more beautiful than all the pearls lovers laviſh in the deſcriptions of their adorables: a pair of fine blue eyes,

which

which already denoted penetration and expreſſion, inform'd and enliven'd his other charming features.

The terms were then propos'd and ſoon agreed to; after which Mr. Goodman inquir'd particularly the name of his new pupil. --- 'His name,' anſwer'd the other, 'is Frederick.' 'And his ſurname?' 'That,' return'd he, 'is not yet known; he has 'had no other name than Frederick and by that a-'lone you are to call him: my name is Green, and 'on a caſe of neceſſity, a letter directed to be left 'for me at the poſt-houſe at York, will arrive ſafe 'to my hands.'

Mr. Green wou'd then have taken his leave, but Mr. Goodman wou'd by no means permit it; he always kept a bed ready on theſe occaſions, and inſiſted on Mr. Green's being his gueſt that night.

The opportunity he had of ſeeing the behaviour, decorum and happineſs, which ſeem'd to reign throughout the family, gave him much pleaſure, and the next morning, after recommending maſter Frederick to their eſpecial care, he took his leave, highly ſatisfied with his entertainment, and the manner in which he had diſpoſed of his little charge.

It wou'd be deſcending to particulars too nicely, to give an account of little Frederick's behaviour in his infantile ſtate; it is ſufficient to ſay, that as his apprehenſion was quick, and his underſtanding great, Mr. Goodman's care was not thrown away on him; and as his temper was ſweet, and his manner engaging, he did not fail of gaining that affection, which both his maſter and miſtreſs had promis'd him at firſt ſight; and, add, to his natural perfections, the ſituation he ſeem'd in, unacknowledg'd and

unknown, every tender breaſt will give it's vote, that he was much belov'd, for

Pity ſwells the tide of love.

Mr. Green continued his quarterly viſits very punctually, and both Mr. Goodman and his wife conſtantly endeavour'd to gain ſome intelligence of the birth of their ſcholar; their endeavours were ineffectual: they carefully obſerv'd Mr. Green's behaviour to him, but could find nothing paternal in it; beſides, his appearance was very plain, whereas maſter Frederick's cloaths and allowance, were ſuitable to a conſiderable rank: therefore they concluded, that he was the illegitimate ſon of ſome perſon of diſtinction, who had ſo much honeſty as to cauſe good care to be taken of his offspring, yet too much modeſty to glory in the effects of a crime, which cuſtom has render'd rather praiſe-worthy, tho', in every degree, derogatory to the laws of heaven and earth.

Ten times had the earth meaſur'd its courſe around the bright luminary, ſince Frederick had made his firſt appearance at Mr. Goodman's, ere the blind dame began to play off thoſe tricks ſhe had deviſ'd, to make maſter Frederick her ſport; he had now approach'd the palaces of ſcience, and by his ſkill in right and wrong began to diſtinguiſh the realities which thoſe names imply; his ideas were clear, his ſentiments refin'd, his judgment ſtrong, and his heart capable of feeling extacy of bliſs or exceſs of miſery, in that degree which alone conſtitutes the beings of thoſe very oppoſite extremes. Thus was he diſpos'd, when Mr. Goodman receiv'd a letter, the reading of which occaſion'd a viſible alteration in his looks and ſpirits, which inſtantly became depreſs'd:

preſs'd: he conceal'd his concern as well as he could, 'till his little tribe were diſpers'd, and then bidding Frederick follow him, he began as follows:

'My dear child, the regard I have ever had for 'you, makes me take a large intereſt in whatever 'concerns you, therefore believe me, this letter 'has pain'd me greatly, but let it not grieve you too 'much, heaven never abandons thoſe who purſue 'virtue, which courſe, your good ſenſe aſſures me, 'you never will forſake.' This ſaid, he put the fatal letter into Frederick's hand, the contents of which were theſe:

To Mr Goodman.

Sir,

YOU have in your care a lad call'd Frederick, for whoſe board and education you are paid up 'till this preſent Michaelmas; this is to acquaint you, that no farther proviſion will be made for him, ſo that he is free to follow whatever courſe his inclination, and your advice direct him. Inclos'd is a note for twenty pounds, of which ſum he is adviſ'd to make the beſt uſe he can, as it is the laſt ſupply he will ever receive from

Your humble ſervant,

* * * * * * * * *

Imagination may paint, but deſcription can never reach what Frederick felt, when he had read the letter; words were inſufficient to expreſs his thoughts at that moment; amazement ſat on every feature; grief, mingled with reſentment, appear'd in his looks, which did not eſcape the obſervation of Mr. Goodman,

Goodman, who thus endeavour'd to conſole his afflicted pupil.

'I attempted, my dear, to take off the ſharpneſs 'of this cruel inſtrument, but I find my eſſays were 'ineffectual; but come, Frederick, though you have 'loſt Friends you never knew, be aſſured of the 'continuance of the affection and good offices of 'thoſe whom you do know. I have long ſince con'ſidered you as my own child, and now think my'ſelf obliged by the laws of humanity, to be a fa'ther to you; conceal your preſent anxieties from 'your companions, and in a few days, I will with 'the advice of my wife, now your mother, ſettle 'ſome plan for your future welfare.

At theſe words, Frederick, whoſe countenance had hitherto diſcover'd no ſuch weakneſs, burſt into tears; and as ſoon as his frequent ſobs wou'd give his ſpeech way, 'O ſir (ſaid he) why are you thus 'kind? why do not you too, forſake the wretch, 'whom heaven ſeems to have deſign'd an example 'of miſery? or why was I born only to be wretch'ed?

'Ceaſe, my deareſt child, replied Mr. Goodman, 'whatever our ſufferings are, or however undeſerv'ed they ſeem, we muſt not arraign the Divine Pro'vidence, which is excellent in all its ways, tho' 'we are too ſhort-ſighted to perceive the ſecret 'ſprings by which it works; yet be aſſur'd, while 'we perform our religious and ſocial duties, what'ever happens to us, is for the beſt: you have hi'therto infring'd neither; nor while you continue 'to be good, will the Omnipotent, who is a father 'to the fatherleſs, ever forſake you. Come, my 'child, dry your tears, while I live, you ſhall never

'want

'want a friend; and I hope the Divine Power will 'ever extend his protection and bleſſing to you, 'then you never can be miſerable.'

The more Mr. Goodman endeavour'd to comfort Frederick, the faſter his tears flow'd; for it is the peculiarity of great minds to be more ſenſibly affected by generous treatment, than by thoſe incidents which are call'd melancholy.

They had both nicely obſerv'd Frederick's diſpoſition, and found that among many excellent qualities, there was a mixture of a certain greatneſs of ſpirit, commonly call'd pride: the facility with which he attain'd every thing he had hitherto been taught, had occaſion'd envy in the breaſts of many of his competitors, whoſe hearts as well as heads, were worſe than his; and it was paſt a doubt, that they would be glad of the change in his fortune, as it would give them an opportunity to inſult him, and revenge thoſe ignominies which his ſuperior talents had drawn upon them; it was therefore reſolv'd, that his misfortunes ſhould be conceal'd from every body; that he ſhould ſtill continue with Mr. Goodman, and that he would ſupply him with neceſſaries of all kinds, ſo that the ſmall ſum which was his whole fortune, both in poſſeſſion and reverſion, might remain untouch'd; and farther, in order to qualify him to get ſome employment when arrived to manhood, in caſe they could not better provide for him, he ſhou'd be articled as a clerk to Mr. Goodman, who was very capable of rendering him able to ſerve any other perſon in that capacity.

Theſe particulars being ſettled by the good pair, Mr. Goodman acquainted Frederick with them whoſe gratitude was too big for words; which was increas'd by

by Mr. Goodman's adding, 'This, my dear Frede-
'rick, is all we can do for you, I wiſh to heaven
'it was in my power to place you in a ſituation more
'ſuitable to your merit; but all are not born to be
'greatly proſperous; I have had my diſappoint-
'ments, and thoſe ſevere ones, but I have now
'learn'd to be content, and conclude with the ex-
'cellent Mr. Pope, that, 'whatever is, is right.'

Here he began a ſhort relation of his own life, which, as he did it to prove to Frederick, that his misfortune was not the greateſt that had been, and in order to reconcile him to it, I believe will not be diſagreeable.

'I was born (ſaid he) with the appearance of in-
heriting a much more plentiful fortune than I have
ever yet enjoy'd, or have now any hopes of; and tho'
I met with many troubles before I reach'd my thir-
ty ſixth year, yet my ſhining proſpects were not to-
tally ſhut in, 'till that period. My father was a
gentleman-farmer, in very flouriſhing circumſtances,
I was his ſecond ſon, and his intention was to bring
me up to ſome genteel employment, 'till he was di-
verted from thoſe thoughts, by the advice of a per-
ſon of quality, who pretended to diſcover that I had
a capacity too extenſive for a tradeſman, and pro-
mis'd my father if he would devote me to the
church, he would procure me ſome conſiderable
preferment, immediately on my taking orders; aſ-
ſuring him, that he did not doubt but he ſhould live
to ſee me a biſhop. My father, flatter'd by his
advice, and allur'd by his profeſſions, determin'd
inſtantly to purſue it; and taking me from the ſchool
at which my brother and I had hitherto been, plac'd
me at the beſt in the weſt of England. The pro-

greſs

greſs I madegave high ſatisfaction to my patron, who honour'd me with an examination as often as I ſaw him: but if his praiſes gave me and my father pleaſure, it was more than they did to the reſt of the family; the difference of expence in the education and cloaths, between my brothers and me, gave my mother diſquiet; ſhe cou'd not tell why one child ought to be thought more of than another, nor cou'd all my father's arguments convince her: my brothers look'd on me with envy, and tho' that did not affect me at the time, yet I am now ſenſible, much of my bad luck had its riſe from thoſe diſſentions. After I had paſt through all the forms of the ſchool, my father ſent me to Cambridge, there to finiſh that education which was to make my fortune. I ſhall not dwell on particulars, nor tell you how I paſs'd ſtep by ſtep, 'till I took the ſacred order: I was hurried home directly afterwards, by an account that my father was dangerouſly ill, as I had the moſt tender affection for him: this news gave me inexpreſſible grief, which was augmented by finding on my arrival, that his death was hourly expected: he was ſenſible when I came to him, and garſping my hand with eagerneſs, ſaid, you will be happy, lord D----- has promiſed me, he will provide nobly for you: here he began a benediction, but was interrupted in the midſt, by violent convulſions, which my brother, who was in the room attributed to his ſurpriſe of ſeeing me; (I having travelled night and day, and by that means arriv'd ſooner than he expected) I was too much concern'd for my father to take any notice of my brother's ill-nature; however, he recover'd from that fit, which we thought his laſt, and liv'd 'till the next day, when he expir'd, and I firſt taſted woe. After the funeral rites were over, his will was read, in which was this clauſe!'

" Item,

" Item, as lord D----- has given me the moſt " ſolemn aſſurances, that he will very ſhortly pro- " vide for my ſon Thomas, I bequeath to him only " the ſum of one hundred pounds, as a token of " my love; adding the reſidue of what his ſhare of " my eſtate, &c. &c. would have amounted to, to " the portions of my other children, who have " neither his friends, nor abilities."

' This laſt word, made my brothers envy me even the hundred pounds, which was not above the twentieth part of what I might have expected, tho' I had too much reſpect for my father's memory, to find any fault with the ſmallneſs of my legacy.'

' As ſoon as theſe affairs were ſettled, I waited on lord D----, who receiv'd me with great kindneſs; renew'd his promiſes, and gave me a general invitation to his table; which I very frequently accepted, 'till I found it ſo far inconſiſtent with my intereſt, that I was oblig'd to ſlacken my viſits. My function, and his rank, made it neceſſary for me to appear always well dreſs'd, and the number of ſervants, who conſtantly attended me to the gate, caus'd my dinners to coſt me more, than any tavern bill would have roſe to, had I only pleaſed my own palate. My hundred pounds were very deeply touched, and my mother and brothers gave me to underſtand, that they were reſolv'd to fulfil the very letter of the will, and not give me a ſhilling more, than that allotted me. I did not doubt the ſincerity of the peer's profeſſions, but I could not live on promiſes; and as I ſaw no proſpect of their being yet fulfill'd, I thought it neceſſary to ſeek ſome proviſion in the mean time. I mention'd to his lordſhip my deſign of ſeeking a curacy, for which he

applauded

applauded me; and in a few weeks after, I luckily met with one, which pleas'd me the more as it was but ſix miles diſtant from Lord D--- 's, ſo that I cou'd attend him as frequently as before.'

'My rector was a man of good ſenſe, and great good nature; his only fault was want of conſideration; tho' he had nothing but his benefice, he liv'd to the very utmoſt of it, quite forgetting that thoſe children of whom he was ſo fond, muſt be deſtitute at his death, and the more ſo as he ſupported them in a manner much above their condition, which wou'd procure them nothing but the inſulting pity of thoſe who now appear'd their inferiors.'

'He had three daughters, the eldeſt of which was about four years younger than myſelf; I had not been long acquainted with her, before I became ſenſible that love is more than a poet's fancy: I fear'd to declare my paſſion, but ſtrove by every look, word and action, to gain her notice and eſteem; and it was not long before I began to flatter myſelf I had ſucceeded, but ſtill I wanted courage, for virtuous love is ever diffident, whereas the paſſion that falſly wears that name, is daring, ſo as not to be repuls'd, but by the utmoſt prudence. One day, going to viſit lord D----, he receiv'd me with open arms, ſaying, dear Goodman, your buſineſs is done, you may leave your curacy as ſoon as you will, I promiſe you in leſs than a month, you ſhall be poſſeſs'd of a living worth four hundred pounds a year. I made my grateful acknowledgements to his lordſhip; but tho' his news was ſo joyful, I thought that day the longeſt I had ever ſeen; I wiſh'd to be at home, for my heart was ready to burſt with that paſſion, which I thought my ſhining proſpects gave me a licence to reveal. I hurried home, as ſoon as

politeneſs wou'd permit me, and all the way I went, mus'd on the manner in which I ſhou'd make my declaration: I ſometimes dreaded her diſdain, then flatter'd myſelf with a pleaſing return, 'till I arriv'd in a meadow cloſe by the houſe; I was in a pleaſing reverie when I got thither, and ſo wrapt up in my delightful imaginations, that I did not ſee the perſon who cauſed them, 'till I was cloſe to her, when ſhe ſaid, Mr. Goodman, you ſeem in high ſpirits, I hope you have heard ſome good news. I ſtarted, gaz'd earneſtly on her, eagerly catch'd her hand, and cried, I have, I have, my angel, if you will make it ſo, but if you refuſe your aſſiſtance to bleſs me, I am more wretched than ever! my looks, my manner and my words, ſurpris'd her, for never 'till then had I ever approach'd her, but with profound reſpect, nor even dar'd to touch her hand; ſhe withdrew it, ſaying, ſhe believ'd I had forgot where I was, and to whom I was ſpeaking. Her reproof ſtruck me all of a heap, and I ſtood like one thunder-ſtruck, while ſhe walk'd towards the houſe, leaving me to accuſe myſelf for my abruptneſs at leiſure. It was a full hour before I could perſuade myſelf to go home; I fear'd to meet her eye at ſupper, yet thought if I did not go and by my appearance convince her I was ſober, ſhe might attribute my raptures to the effects of wine. As ſoon as I went in, her father began to queſtion me on my expectations from Lord D----, which at firſt made me ſuſpect miſs Nancy had given him an account of my ſtrange behaviour; but I thought I cou'd not clear myſelf to her, nor lay a foundation for a better tim'd declaration, any other way, than by telling him what had juſt paſs'd between that nobleman and myſelf. He congratulated me on my good fortune, and chear'd me ſo much, that I ventur'd to ſteal a glance at his amiable daughter,

ter, and had the ſatisfaction to perceive ſhe did not look diſpleas'd, tho' more thoughtful than uſual.'

'I retir'd ſooner than common in order to meditate a more fortunate method to acquaint the charmer of my ſoul with my preſent pain; and after all my ſchemes concluded, that I cou'd write much more fluently than I cou'd ſpeak on that ſubject. I inſtantly ſet about it, and at laſt finiſh'd an epiſtle, which I thought ſufficiently expreſſive, and not liable to cenſure. I ſent it the next morning by her ſiſter, and when we met at breakfaſt, ſaw ſuch an alteration in her looks and behaviour, that I did not know whether I was to conclude myſelf happy or miſerable. She gave me no opportunity to ſpeak to her that whole day, but the next morning coming into the library where I ſat reading, ſhe laid a letter on the table, and inſtantly went out without ſpeaking. I approach'd the table with fear and trembling, and open'd the letter, as if I had been going to peruſe my ſentence of life or death: but what was my extacy, when I found it even beyond my hopes! My dear Nancy was above the little affectation and cobweb diſguiſes of her ſex: ſhe own'd at once a preference in my favour; a love founded on eſteem, and perfectly diſintereſted, and which only wanted her father's ſanction, to render me compleatly bleſs'd.'

'I ſhall paſs over ten thouſand delightful particulars, of which no one who does not love as I did, can have any idea, and only obſerve, that amidſt all my ſufferings, heaven reſerv'd one bleſſing for me, ſince earth cannot afford any which deſerves to be put in competition, with a faithful tender wife, for ſuch, with her father's conſent ſhe became to me, about three months after my firſt declaration, and ſuch has ſhe ever continued; nor has time, that deſtroyer of

all things, the leaſt abated the fervour of my love, tho' it has increas'd my eſteem for her.'

'Amidſt the joys which ſurrounded me, I almoſt forgot Lord D----'s promiſe; however I waited on him, and he continued to bid me hope, 'till he went to London, where he ſtaid five months, and at his return inform'd me, with many formal apologies, that the living had been previouſly promis'd to another, tho' it had ſlipt his memory, but I might aſſure myſelf of another equally good, which he expected to fall every day.'

'I was ſo happy in my dear wife and the kindneſs of her father, with whom we continued to dwell, that this diſappointment did not much affect me; and tho' I met with ſeveral things of the ſame kind from his lordſhip, within the ſpace of three years after my marriage, yet they did not make much impreſſion on me. In that time I became a father, which ought to have made me more thoughtful, but my thinking time was ſuſpended, that it might be the more dreadful when it came. Mr. Lewis, my wife's father, was pretty ancient, but as he was very healthy, and troubled with none of the infirmities incident to age, we had no apprehenſions of his death; gueſs then our ſurprize, when he was brought home dead, having fallen from his horſe, in a little airing he was taking, and tho' inſtantly aſſiſted, ſhew'd no ſigns of life; nor cou'd any human arts reſtore him. The loſs of a kind parent, was ſufficient cauſe for grief, but add to that, inſtead of a handſome proviſion, which each of his daughters expected, it was as much as we could do, to make the effects he left ſatisfy the many debts he had left unpaid. We were oblig'd to quit the parſonage houſe to the new incumbent; and another addition to our miſery, he propos'd

pos'd doing all the duty of his cure himſelf. I applied to my brother, to permit me and my family to take up our abode with him, till I could get another curacy, but he abſolutely refus'd it, ſaying, my wife was too fine a lady to take up with the plain fare of a farm-houſe; alas, he little knew the virtues of the woman he thus inſulted! however, I took a little houſe, to which I remov'd my wife and three children, and my wife's ſiſters being equally deſtitute, I made them partake of our ſlender proviſion; which now intirely depended on the lazineſs, not the liberality of the neighbouring clergymen, for whom I us'd to officiate, when they were not diſpos'd to do it themſelves, half a guinea, and a dinner, being the reward of my ſervices. This was not only a ſmall pittance, but alſo quite precarious, and tho' my wife and her ſiſters, from fine ladies inſtantly became notable houſewifes, yet want and miſery began to ſtare us in the face. I renew'd my applications to Lord D----, who I believe began to be weary of them; he told me, my marriage was a great bar to my preferment, that he could have procur'd ſeveral valuable things for me, but it wou'd be impoſſible for any man, incumber'd with a wife and children, to take poſſeſſion of them. I conceal'd this part of his diſcourſe from my wife, whoſe heart it wou'd have pierc'd; but it was not long before I loſt all the ſhare I had hitherto flatter'd myſelf I had of his friendſhip. He had a brother, who had long ſince honour'd me with a particular intimacy, nor did the change in my circumſtances cauſe any in his behaviour, on the contrary, he came more frequently to my houſe, and wou'd often paſs ſeveral hours in playing with my children, and talking with my wife's ſiſters. I never gueſs'd the real motives of his viſits, till one day I ſurpris'd the youngeſt of 'em reading a letter, which I ſnatch'd out of her hand; her eagerneſs to regain

it, made me curious to peruſe it, for I had at firſt only deſign'd to teize her, and having, notwithſtanding all her ſtruggles, done ſo, read,

A handſome ſiſter, or convenient wife,
Are prizes in the lottery of life.

tho' I had ſo little prudence, or ſo high a notion of honour, as to make mine a blank.

Mr. D---- had in that letter offer'd her a handſome ſettlement, and to provide immediately for me, on condition ſhe wou'd live with him as a miſtreſs; and by the familiarity of the ſtile, and anſwers to ſeveral queries, ſaid to have been propos'd, I found this was not the firſt letter ſhe had receiv'd from him: I was ſo enrag'd, I tore the letter, and flung it at her, and then in the height of my reſentment wrote a letter to him, fill'd with reproaches. I ſoon found the effects of it. Lord D---- met me by accident a few days after, and took no notice of me; the neighbours found out I had loſt his favour, and began to treat me and my family with rudeneſs, and my wife being again with child, I was deſir'd by the rector, to think of quitting the pariſh, for I had no right to ſtay there, and it was his duty to prevent its being incumber'd. I then told my wife's ſiſters they muſt provide for themſelves, and luckily a very eminent tradeſman juſt then addreſſed the eldeſt, who gladly accepted him, whom a few months before ſhe wou'd have rejected with diſdain, and took her ſiſter to live with her, tho' ſhe did not continue long, for Mr. D---- either out of revenge to me, or love to the girl, renew'd his application, which ſhe had not virtue enough to withſtand. This was a terrible ſhock to my wife, and the condition ſhe was in, together with our diſtreſs, and the ill-

treatment

treatment we met with from all our neighbours, made us almoſt deſpair. I wrote to Lord D---- and begg'd to know how I had offended him, but receiv-ed no anſwer, ſo that I gave over all hopes of aſſiſt-ance from him; I applied again to my mother and brother, but their hearts were ſo much harden'd, that they refus'd to give my wife a lodging, tho' I expected to be turn'd out of our houſe, and all our goods ſeiz'd on for rent, and other debts we had been oblig'd to contract: though my mother did at laſt vouchſafe to ſend her a little money and ſome ne-ceſſaries, againſt the approaching dreaded time. My wife happily recover'd, but ſcarce was ſhe again re-ſtor'd to health, when our dear children fell ill of the ſmall pox: we cou'd not afford to pay for any advice or aſſiſtance, and nobody wou'd give it us for no-thing. My wife and I ſat up conſtantly with them, but heaven had decreed our care ſhou'd be ineffectu-al; they died, and amidſt our griefs, we had the happineſs to think they were relieved from a ſtate of miſery, and receiv'd into thoſe regions of bliſs, to which their innocence certainly intitled them. The perſon who had married my wife's ſiſter, aſſiſted us in defraying the charges of the funerals: but tho' our family was leſſen'd, our wants were not decreaſ-ed; and we were ſtill incapable of redreſſing them, till Lord D---, perhaps tir'd with beholding thoſe miſerable objects he had made, ſent me the follow-ing letter:

To the Rev. Mr. Goodman.

YOU have behav'd very imprudently, but I have yet ſo much charity left for you, as to prevent your paſſ-ing the reſt of your days in a jail. The place of maſter of the free-ſchool at ---- in Yorkſhire is va-

cant,

cant, and I have procur'd it for you. Prepare to go and take poſſeſſion of it as ſoon as you can:

Yours, &c. *D----*

Thus were the oft reiterated promiſes he had made my father and me, of providing nobly for me, fulfill'd! and this was the biſhoprick to which his goodneſs and my merit was to advance me! Yet poor as this was, and great as my ſpirit even in my adverſity had ever been, I was glad to accept of it. But now the difficulty was, where to get money to diſcharge our debts, and carry us thither: for the firſt, we ſold our houſhold-furniture, and for the ſecond, my brother-in-law advanc'd the money, on my bond to pay it him by quarterly ſums. All theſe matters being ſettled, I forc'd myſelf to write a letter of thanks to his lordſhip, and gladly left a country where I had taſted ſo much ſorrow.

We arriv'd ſafely at this place, where I have indeed known what content is. I was well receiv'd by the inhabitants, and ſoon got a curacy, which was a comfortable addition to my ſalary. My aſſiduity in my ſchool, and my wife's great care and tenderneſs to the ſcholars, gain'd me a reputation. I ſoon had a good number of gentlemen and eminent tradeſmen's children, who paid a good price for their education. I throve ſo well, that I paid my brother-in-law within the firſt year, and heaven bleſſed me with my daughter, to ſupply the place of thoſe I had buried, and to be a comfort to me and my dear wife, in our declining years.'

Here Mr. Goodman ended his ſtory, to every circumſtance of which, Frederick liſten'd with great attention. His young heart, unacquainted with the ways of the world, was deeply affected, he never before

before had conceiv'd, that there cou'd be people baſe enough to ſmile, but to betray; he was ruminating ſeriouſly on every particular, when Mr. Goodman thus obſerved.

'I ſee, my dear Frederick, that you are touch'd 'with the relation of my misfortunes, and already 'think your own leſs than you did; I hope you will 'never feel what I have felt; but this, amidſt them 'all, I had to comfort me, and this has been my 'pride and conſolation ſince, that however I was 'tempted or perſecuted, I never departed from the 'paths of virtue. When troubles come, how great 'is the ſatisfaction that ariſes from this thought, that 'they are undeſerv'd! Be of good cheer, my dear 'child, make but God your friend, and you need not 'fear what can happen to you; be aſſur'd, while you 'depend on him, he will never utterly forſake you.'

Mr. Goodman added a great deal more, in praiſe of virtue and religion, ſetting forth, not only their intrinſick worth, but the great force they were of, in repelling calamity; but as his diſcourſe will be eaſily imagin'd by the moral part of my readers, and will be only ridiculed by the immoral, I ſhall repeat no more of it.

Excellent, as the worthy man's advice was, it was far from having the deſir'd effect on Frederick. Young as he was, he had a mind capable of entertaining the moſt capacious ideas, and a heart ſuſceptible of the moſt tender paſſions. Mr. Goodman's hiſtory had furniſh'd him with ideas to which he had hitherto been unacquainted. Bred up in a country village, he was an utter ſtranger, even to thoſe common occurrences which boys in the great world are familiarly acquainted with. All the knowledge

ledge he had of what the ways of the world were now, or two thouſand years ago, he had gain'd by reading, and of courſe, was better acquainted with the manners of the court of Auguſtus, than thoſe of George; and as thoſe trivial cirumſtances, which are of the utmoſt conſequence in common life, are ſuppreſs'd by hiſtorians, his knowledge might be call'd merely ſuperficial.

He was naturally high-ſpirited; tho' a child he had a grandeur in his notions and manner, ſuperior to moſt boys; ignorant as he was of his birth, he conſtantly thought himſelf intitled to a conſiderable rank in life. He was ambitious even in trifles, and might be ſaid to inherit that innate principle of power, which Oliver Cromwel is ſaid to have had, who, when but a ſchool-boy, ſtumbling over a crown, (which was us'd in the repreſentation of a tragedy) took it up, and viewing it attentively, declar'd, he thought himſelf born only to that, and that he wou'd not ſtop, till he had attain'd it. It will ever be a memorable part of the Engliſh hiſtory, how faithfully he kept his word, and how, from the humble ſtation of a private country gentleman, he became the terror of all Europe. We ſhall ſee whether Frederick's prognoſticks were as true.

Such as I have faithfully declar'd his diſpoſition to be, it will eaſily be imagin'd, that the impreſſion his early diſappointment had made, did not ſoon wear off. Pride, leſt his companions ſhou'd gueſs at the cauſe of his anxiety and gratitude, to Mr. and Mrs. Goodman, (to whom he was ſenſible his appearing griev-ed, gave uneaſineſs) made him do his utmoſt to conceal it: and thoſe good people were ſo ſtrenuous in their endeavours to reconcile him to the decrees of Providence, that he became tolerably eaſy: though

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tis poſſible he would not even have done that, had he not ſtill entertain'd hopes, that time wou'd diſcover his origin, and fortune reward him for his preſent troubles.

Three years paſt on, without any thing worthy note happening, when the whole family were put into an alarm, by the ſudden illneſs of Mrs. Goodman. She had with the greateſt conſtancy, ſupported trials under which many of the fam'd heroes wou'd have ſunk, and had by her behaviour indear'd herſelf to all who knew her. But neither her ſuperior fortitude, nor her tranſcendant virtue, could ſhield her from the inevitable ſtroke. She met it with a mind nobly prepar'd by a conſtant practice of every religious duty, and while all about her were diſſolv'd in woe, ſhe was able to relieve their cares, and reconcile them to the thoughts of loſing her.

The only care or fear ſhe diſcover'd, was for the welfare of her ſorrowing huſband and children (for ſhe reckon'd Frederick one) and after recommending each, moſt earneſtly to the other's care, and breathing a wiſh that Frederick and her daughter, might be united, and more proſperous, but not leſs happy, in wedlock, than herſelf had been, ſhe yielded up her ſoul to him that gave it.

Mrs. Goodman's death was a ſevere affliction to her huſband, and gave Frederick an opportunity of diſplaying his eloquence on the topic of ſufferings. Either this, or time, the alleviator of every grief, reſtor'd him to his former temper; he remember'd perfectly his wife's dying wiſh, and tho' he had ſo bitterly felt the conſequences of thoſe matches where Plutus as well as Cupid does not give his aſſiſtance to Hymen, yet a regard to his wife's deſires,

and

and his eſteem for Frederick, made him determine to uſe his endeavours to make the young people of the ſame mind.

If a ſimilitude of diſpoſitions is a cauſe for love, certainly Frederick and Miſs Goodman wou'd have experienc'd its power. She was a young perſon of extreme good ſenſe, which her father had improv'd farther than is thought conſiſtent with female education; and being naturally of a ſerious turn, ſhe had made ſo good uſe of his inſtructions, that ſhe need not have been apprehenſive that her admittance into either of the univerſities wou'd have been ſpeciali gratia, had ſhe applied for it: add to theſe qualifications, that ſhe wanted none of thoſe graces which more particularly belong to the female ſex. Yet neither her learning, her perſon (which was more than barely agreeable) nor her other perfections, ſerved to inſpire Frederick with any other love than that which is diſtinguiſh'd by the name of fraternal: nor cou'd ſhe ever entertain any other thoughts of him, than as of a brother whom ſhe much eſteem'd. But as neither of them were preſs'd to declare their thoughts, Mr. Goodman remained ignorant of them.

It might perhaps have been better for both, had they been capable of love for each other, ſince it might have prevented Miſs Goodman's cataſtrophe, which happen'd about a year after her mother's death.

Mr. Kemp, a young gentleman who had been a ſcholar of Mr. Goodman's, was juſt come to the poſſeſſion of an eſtate in Yorkſhire. He took an opportunity to viſit his old maſter, who receiv'd him with great affection. Nancy's perſon pleas'd him, and her good-ſenſe inſpir'd him with a deſire to con-

vince her of the little ſervice erudition is to the female world. A woman, whoſe underſtanding is good, and who is conſcious of the ſuperiority of her talents, is not to be gain'd by the common arts which ſeduce the giddy part of the ſex. Mr. Kemp was ſenſible of this, but knew perfectly well how to accommodate himſelf to her humour. A ſhew of virtue, an admiration of literature, an affectation of ſanctity of manners, mix'd with the utmoſt politeneſs, ſoon made an intereſt for him in poor Nancy's heart. Add to this conſtant profeſſion of honour, a determination to endeavour her father's preferment, and the gentle part of my readers will not wonder that ſhe fell a ſacrifice to his baſe deſigns.

Mr. Kemp took care to behave with ſo much circumſpection, that neither Mr. Goodman nor Frederick ſuſpected his amour: he ceas'd his viſits, but this caus'd no wonder, as it was now the gay ſeaſon, and he had frequently mention'd his intention of ſpending ſome time at Scarborough, Harrowgate, and other places of public reſort.

Miſs Goodman was the only diſſatisfied perſon, ſhe wrote ſeveral letters to him, to which his anſwers rather ſerved to add to, than decreaſe her diſquiet: they were conſtantly ſhort, and unſatisfactory; when ſhe complain'd, he pleaded buſineſs, but without thoſe tender excuſes a lover ſhou'd have offer'd, and ſhe remember'd,

There was a time when buſineſs might have ſtaid.

At length, tir'd of making any, even the ſlighteſt returns, to a paſſion whoſe influence he no longer felt, he no longer anſwered her letters. Her love had made her blind to the frequent coolneſſes with

which his letters had abounded; but this apparent neglect open'd her eyes, to all the horrors of her fate. A dejection, which she could no longer conceal, alarm'd her father, and after endeavouring several times, to no purpose, to find the cause of it, he communicated his desire to Frederick, that he would try to discover it.

'Your familiarity, the parity of your ages, and 'that regard you have always had for each other, 'may make her more free to you, than she is 'with me: something more than common must 'have happen'd to occasion so great an alteration as 'is visible in her temper. Do, my dear Frede-'rick, find it out, and if it is in my power to re-'lieve it you may assure her I will do it.'

Frederick undertook this charge, but for some time all his intreaties prov'd ineffectual, 'till mentioning her father's earnest desire to make her happy, she burst into a violent fit of tears, 'Alas! said 'she, that is impossible, he cannot make me hap-'py, but I was born to make him wretched! to 'overwhelm him with sorrow and shame, and lend 'a hand to shorten his days, with my wretch-'ed, wretched folly!' Here her tears stopt her farther speech, and Frederick was seiz'd with so much compassion, wonder and curiosity, that he could not find words to express his thoughts. Recovering a little from those violent effects of her grief, 'You may well look astonish'd, Mr. Frede-'rick; my words and actions may truly amaze you 'but, oh! how will your wonder increase, how 'will you despise me, when you shall know I am 'a lost, deceiv'd, deluded wretch! abandon'd by my 'base betrayer, to shame and remorse?' Frederick was as much as ever at a loss to guess her meaning;

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he endeavour'd to ſooth her grief, and finding ſhe fear'd her father's knowledge of the cauſe of it, gave her the moſt ſolemn aſſurances of concealing every circumſtance ſhe wiſh'd to be ſecret; urged her to make him her confidant, and aſſur'd her he wou'd do every thing he poſſibly could to ſerve her. Won by the kindneſs of his behaviour, and depending on his honour, ſhe began as follows.

'Your goodneſs to me, Mr. Frederick, merits my 'thanks, and to exclude you longer from the know-'ledge of my error, that fatal cauſe of my misfortune, 'wou'd betray a diſtruſt, which would make me un-'worthy even of your pity. Hear then my unhappy 'ſtory, and if you cannot by your advice, aſſiſt me, 'be ſo generous as to endeavour to forget it.' Frederick wou'd here have repeated thoſe promiſes he had made her, but ſhe interrupted him, ſaying, 'Enough, 'Mr. Frederick, I dare truſt you, have but pa-'tience to hear me out, and then I will liſten to all 'you can ſay, only do not upbraid me, I am too 'conſcious of my own folly to bear that. I need 'not repeat the particulars of Mr. Kemp's general 'behaviour in the many viſits he made my father, 'on his firſt coming to Yorkſhire, nor the pleaſure 'my father took in being ſo much diſtinguiſh'd by 'a young gentleman of his fortune, and who had 'been one of his firſt ſcholars: little, little 'did he think, that all that appearance of re-'ſpect and eſteem, was no more than a cloak to 'hide his deſigns on his hapleſs child, or that the 'pains he had taken to inculcate virtue in the mind 'of that gentleman was to be repaid with his 'robbing his daughter of hers! he ſoon found the 'way of making himſelf agreeable to me, and then 'to declare a love which the ſpecious villain well

'knew how to dreſs in the moſt virtuous pretences. 'Honour and everlaſting fidelity he continually pro-'feſs'd, nor 'till he found my heart had yielded to 'his arts did he declare his incapacity to marry, 'while his mother lived, and contriv'd then to do it 'in ſo artful a manner, that my unſuſpecting heart 'was ſatisfied. Mean time, he promis'd to get ſome 'conſiderable preferment for my father, nor were e-'ven you forgot, my father's preferment was to be 'a means of your advancement, and ſuch was his 'love for me, that it was to be of advantage to all 'for whom I had any regard. Enſnar'd by his ar-'tifices, charm'd with his generoſity, and moſt fa-'tal of all, a ſlave to love, I thought punctilio un-'neceſſary. He took advantage of my weakneſs, 'and ſoon gave me to underſtand that he deſpis'd 'me for it. I am now reduc'd to the dreadful alter-'native of putting an end with my own hand to 'a life which he has made miſerable, or by living 'to a diſcovery of my diſhonour, involving my father 'in inexpreſſible anguiſh, and haſtening that death 'which cannot be very diſtant, and which ought to 'be peaceful as the ſleep of babes, and not imbit-'ter'd by a daughter's crimes.'

Here another flood of tears, eas'd her almoſt burſt-ing heart, nor could Frederick ſtop the trickling tear, which would flow from his friendly eye, fill'd with commiſeration of her ſorrows.

He then began to offer every argument he could think of, to conſole her, and perſiſted in his opinion that Mr. Kemp cou'd not refuſe doing her the juſtice to marry her, and even undertook to go to him him-ſelf, and endeavour to prevail on him.

Nancy

Nancy thank'd him for his offers, but had too much reaſon to doubt the ſucceſs of his mediation; yet ſo much love for her ſeducer as to wiſh him to try it. Her heart was continually fluctuating between love and reſentment; aſham'd of, and deteſting a weakneſs, ſhe could not conquer,

She ſcorn'd the hero, but the man ſhe lov'd.

And this is a very ſufficient reaſon why we, the lords of the creation, ſhou'd always exclude the fair ſex from ſharing the benefits of education, equally with us; ſince every woman of a competent underſtanding, if inlighten'd by erudition, will eſpy all our foibles, and tho' not able to eſcape the ſnare, yet will deſpiſe the conqueror, and the continual tumult that muſt occaſion, wou'd imbitter all the ſweets of love.

By Frederick's advice, Nancy wrote another letter to Mr. Kemp, and that in ſuch terms, as muſt have affected any heart that had the leaſt ſpark of humanity left. Frederick undertook to deliver it, and receive the anſwer.

Mr. Goodman was eager to know the ſucceſs of Frederick's inquiries, and queſtion'd him upon it, but he was too faithful to his truſt, and too tender of his maſter's peace, to divulge any tittle which could give Mr. Goodman any notion of the real cauſe of his daughter's diſquiet, only anſwering in general terms, that ſhe cou'd give no account for it, that it was ſome vapouriſh diſorder, which taking notice of would increaſe; and time wou'd be the beſt cure for. Mr. Goodman, was far from being ſuſpicious, and reſted ſatisfied with Frederick's reaſonings.

It was requiſite that Frederick ſhou'd form ſome pretence, in order to make a viſit to York, where Mr. Kemp then was. To this end he expreſs'd a great curioſity to know the extent, ſituation, and remarkables of that city, always ending with a wiſh he could go thither. Two or three days repetition of the ſame deſire prevail'd on Mr. Goodman to make him the offer of taking horſe for that place. He readily embrac'd the propoſal, and Mr. Goodman fix'd the day, and furniſh'd him with a ſteed, and money to defray his expences.

Frederick very eaſily found Mr. Kemp, who no ſooner ſaw him, than he gueſs'd his errand; but as he was perfect in the art of diſſembling, he receiv'd him with great politeneſs, and after ſome general diſcourſe: 'To what am I indebted for the pleaſure 'of ſeeing you, Mr. Frederick?' 'I hop'd,' replied Frederick, 'you wou'd have prevented my 'declaring my buſineſs, but as you chooſe to ap-'pear ignorant, be pleas'd to honour this paper 'with a peruſal.' At the ſame time giving him miſs Goodman's letter, which he receiv'd, open'd and read, without betraying the leaſt ſymptom of love or concern. When he had gone thro' it, he ſat muſing a few moments, but to ſhew his ſilence was not the effect of compunction, he kept twirling the letter over and under his fingers, with the moſt careleſs air imaginable; then with a ſmile: 'I ſup-'poſe, Mr. Frederick, you are no ſtranger to the 'contents of this letter?' 'I am not, Sir.' 'Nor to the demands made upon me?' 'You 'mean,' replied Frederick, 'the demand of mar-'riage, which reparation, as a gentleman and a 'man of honour, I think you are oblig'd to make.' 'Hold, Mr. Frederick, not ſo faſt, if you pleaſe;

'I find.

'I find miſs Goodman, has got an excellent advo-
'cate; but pray, good ſir, what reaſons have you,
'or by what arguments will you prove, that I am
'oblig'd to make what you call reparation?' 'I
'am only an advocate for virtue,' return'd Frederick,
'which you have injur'd, nor can you produce any
'better teſtimony, than your own conſcience, which
'muſt convince you, that you ought in juſtice, to
'reſcue miſs Goodman from that reproach and in-
'famy, to which you have reduc'd her; nor can
'you do it any other way than by inſtantly marry-
'ing her.' 'Your reaſons are far from being ſa-
'tisfactory,' anſwer'd Mr. Kemp, 'ſince my con-
'ſcience, to which you appeal, gives no ſuch vote;
'you will perhaps ſay, I have deceiv'd her, which
'I abſolutely deny. In the whole courſe of my
'acquaintance with her, I never once intended it:
'on the contrary, I was ſo honeſt, as to declare I
'could not marry; therefore I am abſolutely clear
'on that head, and as to taking an advantage of her
'fondneſs, 'tis what every man of ſpirit wou'd do,
'without feeling any remorſe; which you, when
'better acquainted with the world, will be con-
'vinc'd of. At preſent your ignorance of the pre-
'vailing manners makes you idolize thoſe antiquat-
'ed names of virtue, honour, juſtice, and a heap
'more, which are merely ideal, nor conſiſtent with
'reaſon and prudence. Believe me, Sir, a familia-
'rity with the great world will give a very diffe-
'rent turn to your thoughts.'

Frederic ſtood aghaſt. He did not before believe there could be ſuch a man; an indignant ſilence, more expreſſive than words, poſſeſs'd him, at laſt he exclaim'd,

If

If knowledge of the world, makes men perfidious,
May Frederick ever live in ignorance!

'What, ſir, are theſe the notions of a gentleman? 'theſe the characteriſticks of a man of honour? 'tis 'true, the legiſlature has provided no puniſhment 'for your crime, by which one ſhould imagine, 'they thought like Solon, who being aſk'd why 'he made no law againſt parricide? replied, becauſe 'he didn't think there cou'd be any, wicked enough 'to commit it. And, believe me, ſir, however fa'ſhionable ſeduction may be, 'tis ſtill a heinous 'crime, for which the perpetrator ought to be ſe'verely puniſh'd, and branded with indelible infamy, 'as an enemy to ſociety, and a deliberate villain.' Mr. Kemp was ſurpris'd at Frederick's ſpirit; his own pride was hurt, to be thus cenſur'd, and puting on a ſtern air, 'Pray, ſir, by what authority do 'you talk in this manner?' 'By the beſt authori'in the world; I have juſtice on my ſide, which, 'however, you are pleas'd to ridicule, is ſtill exiſt'ing; nor am I to be intimidated by that aſſum'd 'fierceneſs.' Mr. Kemp ſtill more amaz'd at the young ſcholar's bravery, and unwilling, as well as unable to come to a couteau ecclairciſſement, (as Frederick was not only ignorant of the art of defence, but unprovided with that faſhionable weapon) lower'd a little his haughty air: 'I find, Mr. Frederick, 'we are not likely to agree, while we proceed in this 'manner; we are running parallels, which can ne'ver meet; I am far from being diſpleas'd with your 'freedom, but muſt beg leave to diſſent from your 'opinion. As to marrying miſs Goodman, it is 'what I abſolutely cannot do; but to convince you 'that I am not that ungrateful, ungenerous wretch, 'you ſeem to think me, I will, on condition ſhe

'will

'will be ſecret, ſupport her in her lying in, and 'take care of the child; and in caſe ſhe can meet 'with any man who will marry her, (which I dare 'ſay ſhe will, for ſhe is a good-natur'd agreeable 'girl) I don't know, but I may advance two or three 'hundred pounds, to make amends for the robbery I 'am charg'd with; and this is as much as can be 'expected, and what few men beſides myſelf wou'd 'do.'

Had Frederick's acquaintance with the world been equal to his good ſenſe, I dare ſay he wou'd have thought Mr. Kemp's propoſal a very generous one, and ſuch I am perſuaded my readers in general will think it; nay, I think ſo myſelf, and that there even requires an explanation for his conduct: know then, that he was at that very time, addreſſing a young lady of great fortune, whoſe relations had already taken exception at his free life; theſe difficulties he had partly overcome, but fear'd if this new villainy ſhould reach their ears, he ſhou'd be as far off as ever, therefore was willing in prudence, to buy miſs Goodman's ſilence. Had not his intereſt been concern'd, he wou'd not ſo readily have loſt the glory of his ſucceſsful baſeneſs.

Frederick was of another way of thinking, looking diſdainfully on Mr. Kemp; 'And this, ſir, is all 'the reparation your honour obliges you to make! 'but know miſs Goodman already deſpiſes you too 'much, to accept this poor recompence; ſhe has a 'ſoul ſuperior to your baſe groveling offers, a deli-'cacy too great, to admit of a ſecond love, and too 'much honour to wiſh to purchaſe reputation, at the 'expence of any man's felicity. Her notions are by 'much too ſublime for your views, and I only won-'der how a girl of her ſenſe cou'd ever diſtinguiſh

'ſuch

'ſuch a poor wretch as thou art by her love, or how 'ſhe cou'd be deceiv'd by thy mean arts; but even 'this turns to her glory, ſince conſcious virtue and 'dignity of ſoul, is above ſuſpecting others. But 'you may reſt contented with your own littleneſs, 'nor fear any farther interruption from a woman, 'who tho' deceiv'd, betray'd, ſcorns you and her-'ſelf, for ever loving you.'

So ſaying, he lour'd defiance at Mr. Kemp, and left him ſo aſtoniſh'd at Frederick's boldneſs, that he cou'd not recollect himſelf; nor had he the power of ſpeech, 'till he ſaw Frederick mounted, and ready to depart; he then meditated whether he ſhou'd call him to an account for his freedom, or endeavour to make him his friend; but before he came to any concluſion, Frederick was out of ſight; ſo he contented himſelf, with calling him ſeveral pedantick raſcals, miſs Goodman as many fooliſh creatures, then ſinging off the remains of his ill-humour, went to pay his devoir to his new idol.

Miſs Goodman waited with impatience to know the ſucceſs of Frederick's negotiation; ſhe did not flatter herſelf with great expectations; ſhe was already certain, that

The maid who loves, goes out to ſea upon a ſhatter'd plank,
And puts her truſt in miracles for ſafety.

Frederick's looks at his return convinc'd her that ſhe was cut off from hope. That reſentment which he had diſcover'd to Mr. Kemp, ſtill ſat predominant on his features; but no ſooner did miſs Goodman approach him, with ſolicitude in her eye, than the turbulent paſſions all gave way to pity, ſoftneſs

and

and tender regard. ‘ I fear, ſaid ſhe, Mr. Frede-
‘ rick, to aſk you, what your friendſhip for me has
‘ oblig'd you to ſuffer; yet let me hear it, I can-
‘ not be more miſerable than I am, and it will be
‘ ſome conſolation to know the worſt, and be con-
‘ vinc'd that fate can do no more.’

Frederick's ſoul was again in a tumult; he fear'd to ſhock her; yet knew not how to conceal any part of Mr. Kemp's behaviour. He walk'd with eagerneſs in his looks, two or three times acroſs the room; then turning ſhort, ‘ you muſt promiſe me,
‘ my dear ſiſter (for by that appellation he often di-
ſtinguiſh'd her) ‘ that you will be patient, that you
‘ will not attempt your life.’ ‘ I will promiſe you
‘ nothing, reply'd ſhe, but I hope whatever I do,
‘ it will be for the beſt; but do not keep me in ſuſ-
‘ penſe; tho' I already know the worſt; Mr. Kemp
‘ deſpiſes me, refuſes to repair my injuries, and leaves
‘ me to infamy, horror and deſpair. Say, is it not
‘ ſo?’

It has been obſerv'd, that women are in general much quicker in perception than men, which is here verified; Frederick, tho' deeper in ſcience, cou'd not imagine that Mr. Kemp could have even made a merit of his falſhood; Nancy expected that he would do ſo, and believ'd, that,

Sooner the dead may from the grave return,
Than love extinguiſh'd, with freſh ardor burn.

Frederick could not deny the truth of her ſuppoſitions; all he could do, was to endeavour to ſoften, as much as it wou'd bear, his account of Mr. Kemp's behaviour: ſhe heard his relation with the utmoſt fortitude, and when he had done, ‘ Mr. Frederick,’

‘ ſaid

ſaid ſhe, 'I am much oblig'd to you for the pains 'my unhappy error has given you; all I have now 'to aſk, is, that you will conceal my folly, and en-'deavour to comfort my dear father. Aſk me not 'what I intend to do: my reſolution is already fix'd, 'and except you intend to involve my father in my 'woe, you will not endeavour to diſſuade me from 'my purpoſe. May happineſs, here and hereafter, 'be your portion, and may you nor yours ever want 'that aſſiſtance, your friendſhip has given me!'

Here ſhe left Frederick, who was ſo much overcome by her ſorrows, and her earneſt prayers for his welfare, that he had not power to ſtop her; as ſoon as he had a little conquer'd thoſe tender emotions, he went in ſearch of her, in order to offer ſome arguments to prevent her intentions taking place; in his way, he met Mr. Goodman, who began to queſtion him on his York journey: his anſwers to which were ſo incoherent, that Mr. Goodman imagin'd he had been guilty of an exceſs, to which he had never ſhewn the leaſt tendency before; unwilling that the family ſhould perceive it, he adviſ'd him to go to bed directly, and inſiſted on going to his chamber with him, did not leave him till he thought him aſleep, and then lock'd him in.

Frederick being thus forc'd to his bed, when he had no inclination to ſleep, paſt the moſt uneaſy night imaginable; miſs Goodman had frequently profeſs'd a great admiration of that falſe heroiſm, which inculcates ſuicide, when life becomes diſagreeable, and had as often warmly diſputed with Frederick on that point; he knew her to be too ſincere to aſſert what ſhe did not believe, and he believed ſhe had reſolution enough to ſupport her in the perpetration of that horrid act. All her

force

former arguments recurr'd to him with double force; her laſt words, nay her whole behaviour, during the converſation, led him to fear, ſhe now intended to put in practice, that which ſhe had ſo often defended in theory. He waited with the utmoſt impatience for the morning, and then for an interview with miſs Goodman. As ſoon as he was alone with her, he eagerly enquir'd after her welfare, and if ſhe had thought of any expedient to extricate herſelf out of her preſent perplexity? ſhe anſwer'd with great dejection, that ſhe was, if poſſible, farther from any hopes of doing it than ever; that ſhe had but one way in her view, which ſhe thought Mr. Kemp's inſolently cruel rejection of her, render'd not only the beſt, but indeed, abſolutely neceſſary for her to purſue, in order to avoid her father's juſt anger, and to preſerve her own and his fame from the ſcandal her unhappy error wou'd draw upon them.

Her words requir'd no explanation; Frederick heard her with viſible impatience; and as ſoon as ſhe ſtopt, burſt forth with, 'Good heavens! miſs 'Goodman, is it poſſible that you can entertain 'ſuch a thought?' 'I do indeed, replied ſhe, nor 'do I know elſe what I can do. If I live, I 'muſt be expos'd to infamy and the juſt reſent-'ment of my family; and more, to the reproach-'es of my own conſcience, and I fear to the do-'minion of a tyrant who will diſturb my quiet (if 'any I could have) as much as any; for I find I 'cannot hate the author of my calamity as I ought 'to do. Thus circumſtanc'd, tell me, Mr. Fre-'derick, what elſe can I do, to ſhun the miſery 'before me?' 'However great the proſpect of 'miſery may be, (replied he) and I own you have 'ſufficient cauſe to dread its approach, it cannot

'be ſufficient to licence ſelf-murther. You have 'placed every circumſtance in the worſt light, 'without endeavouring to avoid it, and ſuppoſing it 'the worſt that you can imagine, yet even then 'twere better to undergo that, than thoſe con-'ſequences which we may expect will attend a 'wilful breach of one of the principal laws of 'heaven. What is the advantage of religion, 'patience, fortitude, or any other virtue, if not to 'keep us from the commiſſion of irreparable ſins, 'and to ſupport us under unavoidable oppreſſions? 'you are no ſtranger to the dictates of theſe du-'ties, and are too well acquainted with the truth 'of them to plead ignorance. Tell me then, 'can you ſeriouſly reſolve on ſo terrible a deſign? 'can you think a father's anger more dreadful, 'than the condemnation due to the guilty ſoul, 'who in defiance to reaſon and religion, quits the 'ſtation aſſign'd it by an all-wiſe Providence? 'can you ſet ſo great a value on fame, as to 'purchaſe it with the price of endleſs miſery? no; 'reſolve to live, you are not yet ſo wretched as to 'deſpair; and if you even think you are, by that 'you may judge, what that deſpair muſt be which 'never ends, and of courſe ought to avoid it." 'I acknowledge, return'd miſs Goodman, you are 'in the right, but what then am I to do? I dare 'not meet my father's anger, I cannot, cannot 'accept Mr. Kemp's offers, where ſhall I go? to 'what friend can I apply to ſhelter me from the 'evils I apprehend.' Frederick paus'd a-while; at length, recollected a relation of miſs Goodman's, who, he thought would not refuſe to ſerve her. This was a daughter of that ſiſter of Mrs. Good-man, who is heretofore ſaid to have married an emi-nent tradeſman, and who was ſome time ſince marri-ed to a man of good fortune, and reſided about fifty

miles

miles diſtant from Mr. Goodman's: ſhe had frequently invited miſs Goodman to come and ſtay a few weeks with her, and ſhe was a perſon of great good-nature, and profeſs'd much kindneſs for her kinſ-woman, Frederick thought ſhe was the moſt likely perſon in the world to aſſiſt her, and propos'd her immediate accepting that invitation which had been ſo often repeated.

He urg'd, that Mrs. Thomas's advice might be of great ſervice to her; that, as it wou'd be almoſt impoſſible to keep her father ignorant of her misfortune, ſhe might from thence write to him, and as he ſhou'd moſt probably be acquainted by her father with the contents of her letter, he cou'd much better perſuade, than if ſhe were preſent, and did not fear bringing him to forgive her.

Miſs Goodman approv'd ſo well of Frederick's advice, that ſhe propos'd her intended viſit to her father, who readily agreed to it, as his fondneſs made him gladly yield to any thing ſhe deſir'd. Between the time of this reſolution being taken and put in execution, Frederick took every opportunity of inforcing and inlarging on thoſe reaſons he had us'd, to perſuade her to live; and convinc'd her, that excluſive of religious principles, there is much more courage ſhewn, and truer heroiſm, in bravely encountering the ills of life, than by a violent attempt endeavouring to eſcape them; and leſt this ſhou'd not be ſufficient, at parting he gave her a little book, in which he had collected, from the beſt authors, both divine and moral all the precepts and doctrines againſt ſuicide, and illuſtrated it with obſervations of his own, which he recommended to her ſerious peruſal.

The great London road was about ſix miles from

Mr. Goodman's houſe, and within two of the place miſs was to go to; ſhe travel'd in the ſtage coach, having previouſly acquainted her couſin with her intended viſit, and deſired a ſervant might meet her at the inn, where ſhe was to be left by the coach. On her arrival there ſhe inquired for the perſon ſhe expected, but was told, that Mrs. Thomas was fallen ill with the ſmall-pox and was not expected to recover; her huſband was in London, and the whole family in the greateſt confuſion. This was the moſt ſhocking news imaginable to miſs Goodman; for the eſteem ſhe had for her couſin was ſuch as wou'd have made her feel very ſenſibly any affliction that befel her; and now her own concern, from the aſſiſtance ſhe had hop'd to meet with, made that ſorrow double. Then, ſhe had never had the ſmall-pox, and was moreover fearful of it to the greateſt degree. She was now in the utmoſt diſtreſs to know how to proceed; ſhe could not think of going to her couſin; ſhe cou'd not tell how to return to her father, and even if ſhe had deſir'd it, a week muſt paſs before the coach return'd, and it was very difficult to get any other means of conveyance; at laſt ſhe concluded to ſtay where ſhe was; the perſon who was miſtreſs of the inn, ſeeming to be a very good kind of a woman, and to write to her father an account of her diſappointment, and alſo of her former and more important one; to diſcover the whole truth of her unhappy error to him, Mr. Kemp's behaviour, and to implore his forgiveneſs and direction for her conduct in her preſent dilemma.

It was no eaſy undertaking for her to write ſuch a letter to her father, without expoſing herſelf to his utmoſt rage; for tho' ſhe knew him to be fond of her to exceſs, compaſſionate to the unhappy, to the utmoſt

utmoſt degree, and of a benevolence the moſt univerſal, yet ſhe knew he was alſo rigid, perhaps to a fault, in the cauſe of virtue; and as his own life had been ſtrictly ſo, but little inclin'd to allow for the failings too incident to human nature; however it was now a caſe of neceſſity, and therefore after many attempts in which ſhe could not ſatisfy herſelf, ſhe finiſh'd a letter which ſhe reſolv'd to ſend, and, procur'd a meſſenger to go directly with it, and wait for an anſwer.

This important affair being thus concluded, ſhe endeavour'd to compoſe herſelf to wait the return of her meſſenger with patience, and to receive her ſentence, whatever it ſhou'd prove, with moderation; and to this end, ſhe applied herſelf to the ſtudy of thoſe precepts Frederick had preſented her with, and found ſo much pleaſure and benefit from thence, that ſhe look'd with horror and deteſtation on her former guilty purpoſe, which ſhe now firmly reſolv'd, to whatever extremities ſhe might be driven, never to execute.

She was diſturb'd from theſe meditations, by the ſudden noiſe of horſes and voices in the inn yard, and giving way to the curioſity natural to perſons us'd to a country life, went to the window from whence ſhe perceiv'd Mr. Kemp, who looking up in the ſame inſtant, ſaw her, and with viſible ſurprize in his looks, made her a low bow; ſhe retir'd immediately, extremely diſcompos'd at this unexpected interview.

Mr. Kemp had receiv'd an abſolute denial from the lady he had addreſs'd in Yorkſhire, and was now on his way to London, to report his ill ſucceſs to his mother, who had been very earneſt for that match.

Whether he had before repented of his contemptuous treatment of miſs Goodman, whether he had found any return of that paſſion he had heretofore profeſs'd for her, whether his late diſappointment had humbled him, and made him more capable of feeling the diſtreſſes of others, or whether bare curioſity alone induc'd him, I know not; but in leſs than half an hour after his arrival, he ſent a very polite meſſage to her deſiring her permiſſion to wait on her.

It was a ſevere trial to her, whether ſhe ſhou'd grant his requeſt; her pride induc'd her to refuſe ſeeing him, but love in the ſhape of impoſſibility to avoid it, if he inſiſted on it, prevail'd, and ſhe return'd an anſwer as polite as his meſſage, by which he was admitted to her preſence.

He enter'd the room with an air leſs ſelf-ſufficient than uſual, and addreſs'd with great reſpect; begging to know to what accident he ow'd this unexpected pleaſure? 'I think, Mr. Kemp, (return'd ſhe) 'you need not aſk that queſtion, ſince your own 'conſcience ought to inform you, that the unde-'ſerv'd treatment I have met with from you, has 'forc'd me from my father's houſe, to which, per-'haps, I ſhall be forbid ever to return!" 'I am 'ſorry, madam, replied he, you have been oblig'd 'to take a ſtep ſo very inconvenient; you might 'have done better, but I find you are ſway'd by that 'pedantick fool you ſent to me, whoſe advice, I 'fear, will not be very ſerviceable to you.' 'I 'wiſh, ſir, return'd miſs Goodman, I had never 'follow'd worſe advice, than any he wou'd give me; 'I ſhou'd not then have been the wretch I am. 'But I think, ſir, if you only intended to inſult the 'miſery you have caus'd, you had done better in 'not making this viſit.' 'I inſult you, madam! 'ſurely

'ſurely, miſs Goodman, you don't think me capable 'of ſuch baſeneſs?' 'I ſhou'd not wrong you, I believe, ſir, if I did; to what elſe, can I attribute 'thoſe offers you were pleas'd to make me by Mr. 'Frederick? to what but the loweſt malice, your 'neglecting to anſwer any of thoſe letters, I ſent 'you? to what, but the utmoſt baſeneſs, your repeated neglects, and breach of promiſes made in 'the moſt ſerious manner? anſwer me to any one 'of theſe queſtions, and give but ſome plauſible excuſe, and I may then believe you do not now deſign an inſult.'

'I own, replied Mr. Kemp, I have been to 'blame; yet I think I can excuſe myſelf; and 'firſt, I muſt ſay, that the inſolence of your 'meſſenger was ſuch, as provok'd me beyond 'patience; I was vex'd to find you had intruſted 'ſuch a coxcomb with a ſecret of ſo much conſequence to us both; I fear'd, forgive my love 'that ſuggeſted that fear, that he was my rival 'in your eſteem; 'twas this that prompted me to 'behave as I did; and if I was blameable, place 'my faults to the account of love, and you muſt 'forgive me.'

'And to the account of love, return'd Miſs 'Goodman, I am to place the utter neglect you 'ſhew'd to all my preſſing applications to you, 'before that which gave you ſo much concern; 'to love your artificial promiſes and profeſſions, 'which with a colour of truth, deluded me, while 'you gloried in your evaſive profeſſions. I am 'now convinc'd of your love, and wiſh I had 'only experienced your hate.'

'Your

'Your reproaches are too juſt, replied he, yet 'I think I can clear myſelf; and firſt, I never re-'ceiv'd half the letters you ſent, and thoſe I did, 'were when I was engag'd in affairs of that per-'plexing nature, that render'd me incapable of 'anſwering them. As to my deceiving you, I'll 'ſay no more on that head, than that it was im-'poſſible for me to propoſe marriage; my chief 'dependance being on my mother, who has en-'gag'd me by a ſolemn promiſe, never to diſo-'bey her in that article; if I did ſometimes in-'ſinuate promiſes of more than I am able to per-'form, you muſt allow ſomething for human 'frailty. And to convince you that I am not ſo 'ungrateful and ungenerous as you imagine me, 'I will now make you an offer, which I will 'punctually perform, and for which I will give you 'whatever ſecurity you deſire. If you will go 'with me to London, I will place you in a hand-'ſome ſituation there, and ſupport you in a gen-'teel manner; and if I ſhou'd be oblig'd to mar-'ry, I will ſettle ſuch an income on you, and 'whatever family you may have, as ſhall be ſuit-'able to the rank you ſhall have appear'd in, and 'to quiet thoſe reflections you may dread, I will 'permit you to uſe my name, to thoſe who you 'think will cenſure your way of life.'

Miſs Goodman heard this long harangue with great patience, and when he had ended, anſwer'd, 'I don't doubt, ſir, but there are many in my 'ſituation who would gladly accept your offer: 'but I ſhall without any heſitation decline it: I 'am already too ſenſible of the painful remorſe 'attendant on guilt, to enter voluntarily into a 'ſtation for life, that muſt ſubject me to a great-

er

'er portion than I have yet felt. I do not ſet 'that value on the conveniences of life, to pur-'chaſe them at a price ſo dear, as will afford me 'nothing but repentance. I dread not poverty, 'but infamy I do; and will much ſooner em-'brace the former, than incur the latter. I have 'a juſt ſenſe of the regard which ought to be had 'of reputation, but can never think of borrowing 'a falſe one by deceiving my friends, and by, 'that very deception, ſtill adding to my guilt, and 'giving new cauſe for ſelf-reproach.'

'I find then the ſincerity of your affection, 'miſs Goodman, you will ſuffer pride and fan-'taſtical notions to prevail with you to abandon 'me, becauſe I cannot comply with all your de-'mands?'

'I have done demanding, ſir, ſaid ſhe; I only 'deſire now that you will ceaſe to perſecute me 'with offers which I will never accept. I ſhall 'not endeavour to convince you of my love, of 'which you have already had too ſevere a proof; 'but this aſſurance I will give you, that as I will 'not conſent to your terms, ſo I will never give 'you cauſe to reproach me with inconſtancy, by 'becoming the wife of any body elſe. Had I been 'yours, it ſhould have been the ſole buſineſs of 'my life to have deſerv'd that honour; but now, 'penitence for my paſt tranſgreſſions ſhall employ 'my time; and may I be the laſt whom you 'may reduce to that miſerable ſtation.'

Here ſhe was going to retire, when Mr. Kemp catching hold of her hand, begg'd her to hear him a little longer, and then enforc'd every thing he had before ſaid, with all the rhetorick he was maſter

ſter of; but to no purpoſe; her anſwers were ſo reſolute, yet ſo very ſenſible, ſo free from affectation or reſentment, more than virtue warranted, intermix'd with ſuch expreſſions of real affection for him, that ſhe almoſt converted him; but pride and avarice, the two predominant qualities in his compoſition, kept their ground ſo well, that they defended him from yielding to her arguments. 'Tis certain her diſcourſe and manner made deep impreſſion on him, and he ſecretly wiſh'd with great earneſtneſs, that ſhe had ſuch a fortune which wou'd make his marrying her excuſable to the world and himſelf. But the want of this was too powerful an obſtacle to be conquer'd, and more in love than he ever before thought himſelf, he recommended his propoſals to her ſerious conſideration that night, intending to receive her anſwer in the morning: which was no more favourable than that of the preceding day; he offer'd to ſtay 'till her meſſenger return'd, hoping that her father's anſwer might cauſe ſome alteration in her ſentiments, but ſhe ſtill refus'd him, and at laſt, dreading the effects his importunity might produce in her mind, ſhe prevail'd with him to leave her, and purſue his intended journey, with a conditional promiſe of writing to him.

Leaving her now, to the train of reflections this interview occaſion'd, 'tis time to ſee how her letter was receiv'd, by her father.

His ſurprize at ſeeing a letter from her ſo ſoon, made him eager to know the contents: but who can deſcribe the indignation, grief and fury that poſſeſs'd him, when he had read it? For ſome time, he utter'd only unintelligible execrations; at length, turning to the man who brought it (and who ſtood

trembling

trembling at the outrageous expreſſions and behaviour of Mr. Goodman) bade him tell the wretch, he knew her not, but gave her over to that ſhame and remorſe which muſt be her portion; he was no longer her father, nor wou'd he ever ſee her more. The poor man, frighten'd almoſt out of his wits, begg'd of him to write down what he had to ſay, for he was ſure he ſhould forget it. Mr. Goodman at firſt refus'd, but at the earneſt intreaty of the man, complied, and wrote ſuch a letter, as wou'd have ſhaken the moſt fix'd temper, and ſhock'd the moſt confirm'd in guilt. He refus'd ever to ſee her, or acknowledge her for his child again, with ſuch expreſſions of rage, love, grief and reſolution, as muſt have affected the moſt unconcern'd perſon breathing. Strange, that a father who but a few days before, thought all his happineſs conſiſted in that child, ſhou'd at once abandon her! but ſuch were his notions of virtue, that he thought no ties, however near to affection or nature, cou'd excuſe the countenancing of vice; for to give any degree of favour to a vicious perſon, he look'd on as partaking their guilt, and by how much the nearer the offender was to him, any yielding to their frailty, made the participation of the ſin the larger. Theſe ideas, he had by long application to the ſtudy of the ſevereſt rules of moral rectitude, imbib'd, and had by them learnt to conquer that tenderneſs, which was much more natural to his diſpoſition.

Frederick, who was abroad, during this whole tranſaction, was amaz'd at the fury he obſerv'd in Mr. Goodman's looks, when he return'd home, but before he cou'd enquire the cauſe, his maſter burſt out with, 'I'm betray'd, and you, ſir, are 'privy to my ſhame.' Frederick, more amaz'd, humbly deſir'd to know how he had offended him?

'By

'By concealing the guilt of that harlot, once my 'child; but now my curſe!' 'Dear ſir, ſaid Fre- 'derick, be more calm; hear me but with patience, 'and I hope you will retract your haſty opinion.' 'No, replied Mr Goodman, you can ſay nothing 'to excuſe her offence, nor to clear yourſelf of your 'ſhare in it.' 'How, ſir, am I guilty? becauſe I 'did my utmoſt to preſerve your peace, and to pre- 'vail with her betrayer to do her juſtice?' 'And 'what juſtice, interrogated Mr. Goodman, cou'd 'have leſſen'd her crime?' 'That, ſir, replied Fre- 'derick, which every man ought to do, who has de- 'luded by arts and promiſes, the innocent and un- 'ſuſpicious; marriage, which would have been 'ſome amends for the injury, and have defended her 'from ſcandal.' Mr. Goodman began to think he had been too ſevere on Frederick, and overcome with his own grief, and unable to anſwer him, he retired, leaving Frederick in much anxiety to know the fate of miſs Goodman.

The next morning he perceiv'd Mr. Goodman appear'd more calm, than the preceding night; he therefore ventur'd to enquire how this intelligence had been given him, on which Mr. Goodman gave him his daughter's letter accompanied with an exclamation on her baſeneſs. Frederick read it, and then begg'd to know what anſwer he had return'd? Mr. Goodman inform'd him, and at the ſame time aſſuring him, he wou'd never retract from it.

'And is it poſſible, ſir, ſaid Frederick, you can 'make ſuch a reſolution? conſider the merits of 'your daughter, 'till this error, the moſt worthy 'that ever deſerv'd a tender parent's care; and for 'this, ſhe is much more worthy of compaſſion than 'anger: do, dear ſir, recal your haſty ſentence, re-

'ſtore

'ſtore your once belov'd child to your affection, and ſave yourſelf from that preſſure of grief, her miſery, occaſion'd by your ſeverity, will plunge you in.' 'What, replied Mr. Goodman, are you become an advocate for vice? I thought you had been better eſtabliſh'd in virtue.' 'Far be it from me, ſir, to plead for vice; I'm ſure your child's repentance is equal to her crime, and ſurely, ſir, you will not refuſe mercy to the penitent?' I have no proofs of her penitence, replied Mr. Goodman.' 'Yes, return'd Frederick, that letter contains ſufficient; but what wou'd you ſay, if your rigour ſhou'd oblige her to the commiſſion of a crime, which admits of no repentance? what if your cruel ſentence, ſhou'd drive her to deſpair, and make her violently put an end to that life, which might be preſerv'd by your lenity, and which I dare anſwer for her, ſhe would make an example of purity and virtue, worthy the imitation, not only of the repenting frail ones, but even of the moſt ſtrictly virtuous?'

Mr. Goodman ſeem'd ſomewhat ſtagger'd, ſaying he wou'd not be the cauſe of adding to her crimes, but without being guilty of wilful perjury, he could not alter from his firſt reſolution. Frederick began now to hope he wou'd at laſt yield, therefore repreſented to him in the moſt affecting manner, the neceſſity his daughter muſt be expos'd to, without a friend in the world to aſſiſt her, but very little money to ſupport her, in the moſt dreadful ſituation, and of a ſpirit too great to accept aſſiſtance from Mr. Kemp; he urg'd him with great earneſtneſs, to ſuffer him to go to her, and to carry ſome neceſſary ſupply. Frederick's intreaties were

long in vain, but at length his eloquence prevail'd; Mr. Goodman conſented that he ſhou'd go the next day, but without any meſſage from him, that might induce miſs to hope for his returning favour.

Frederick undertook this journey with infinite pleaſure; he did not doubt but he ſhould be able in ſome degree to allay her grief, and he thought he might encourage her to expect her father's pardon, and to be again reſtor'd. Her father had compli-ed to ſend her a ſmall ſupply of money, which Frederick not thinking enough, encreas'd with the addition of all the ſtock he had ſav'd from his maſter's allowances.

There is hardly any pleaſure a benevolent heart can feel equal to that of relieving the diſtreſſes of others. Frederick employed all his thoughts throughout his journey, in anticipating the pleaſure of ſeeing and comforting miſs Goodman. Gueſs then, what muſt his diſappointment be, when he arriv'd at the inn, and enquiring for the lady, was inform'd, that ſhe ſet out very early in the morning, with a lady in a poſt-chaiſe, they believ'd, for London, but could not tell, nor who the lady was. Frederick was ſo much aſtoniſh'd with this news, that for ſome minutes he remain'd ſilent, quite unable to ſpeak; at laſt, he enquir'd how the lady and ſhe became acquainted? the woman, who according to the generality of country inn-keepers, was very talkative and intelligent, inform'd him of Mr. Kemp's being there, his ſeeing miſs Goodman, and the greateſt part of their converſation; which her curioſity had led her to overhear. That ſoon after he was gone, the lady came, and by an accident happening to her chaiſe, was oblig'd to ſtay there all that day and the following night; that ſeeing ſhe was melancholy,

which

which ſhe imagin'd aroſe from want of company, ſhe mentioned the young lady to her, and on the elder lady's invitation, introduc'd them to each other, and found they ſoon became acquainted, and knew each others families; that on the return of miſs Goodman's meſſenger with a letter, ſhe on reading it, fell into fits, that the lady ſeem'd under great concern for her, and when ſhe recover'd, deſir'd her to be comforted; that ſhe ſhou'd never want a friend while ſhe liv'd, and perſuaded her to go with her, to which miſs Goodman conſented, and tho' extremely ill was gone with her.

All this account was ſo ſtrange and ſurpriſing to Frederick, that he cou'd not tell what to make of it; the lady's name he found was Murray, a name he was totally unacquainted with any body of, nor had he ever heard Mr Goodman or miſs mention any acquaintance of that name. He was at a loſs what to do, to go to London in queſt of 'em, wou'd be running a wild-gooſe chace, without any hope of ſucceſs, and almoſt aſham'd to return home, fearing Mr. Goodman's reproaches. However, that was the only courſe he cou'd purſue, and therefore he took it, much diſhearten'd with his ſucceſs.

When he came home, he related faithfully to Mr. Goodman all he had heard, who ſeem'd equally ſurpris'd, but not inclin'd to think ſo favourably as Frederick did; he believ'd it all a trick, that Kemp met her by appointment, and notwithſtanding appearances, that Mrs. Murray was an agent of his, and that miſs Goodman was gone to him.

Frederick cou'd not believe this, and endeavour'd to defend miſs Goodman from theſe ſuſpicions, when Mr. Goodman with a ſtern air, command-

ed him to be for ever ſilent on that head, if he valued his favour; that he had utterly caſt off the wretch he once gloried in as a daughter, and forbad him ever to mention her name again.

Frederick ſaw too much reſolution in Mr. Goodman to dare to oppoſe him: and tho' he endeavour'd to conceal under anger the more tender grief his daughter's miſconduct gave him, yet Frederick cou'd plainly perceive his very heart was rent with it; yet ſuch was his reſolution, that from that time to his death, he never after mention'd her name.

Frederick cou'd not help, for a long time after, feeling much concern for miſs Goodman, and was very anxious to know her fate, but as he knew no way to procure any intelligence of her, he now devoted himſelf to every thing which cou'd give ſatisfaction to Mr. Goodman, who had intirely forgiven him for the ſhare he had in miſs Goodman's affairs, and treated him with the utmoſt kindneſs and tender affection, ſeeming to conſider him not only as his adopted ſon, but as the only friend and relation he had.

His thoughts were all turn'd to Frederick's advantage, whom he intended to make heir to all his poſſeſſions, when he was ſuddenly depriv'd of what he had been for many years ſaving with the greateſt œconomy and prudence. Some years before a neighbouring farmer was in great diſtreſs, being threatened with an immediate execution on body and goods, if he did not pay a certain ſum, which he ow'd, within a limited time. Mr. Goodman, whoſe heart was ever open to ſuccour the diſtreſs'd, and remembering his own troubles, offer'd to be join'd in a bond with

with him, to pay the money. Mr. Goodman's character was ſo good, and his circumſtances ſo flouriſhing, that his bond was eaſily accepted, and the farmer's affairs reſettled to his advantage. Mr. Goodman frequently queſtion'd him about the money, to which he gave ſlight anſwers, 'till his death diſcover'd all; the money was unpaid, the intereſt had run up to almoſt as much as the principal, all which Mr. Goodman in conſequence of his bond, was oblig'd to pay.

Here was poor Frederick's future fortune at once condemn'd; but as he had more prudence than to lament the loſs of what he never poſſeſs'd, he had no farther concern than what he felt at the daily decline, viſible in Mr. Goodman's health, who was ſoon after oblig'd to take to his bed.

That paternal affection he had always ſhew'd to Frederick, did not forſake him but with his life; when he found his fate inevitable, he ſpoke thus to him. 'I find, my dear Frederick, I ſhall not be 'long with you; I am haſtening to the regions 'where only reſt and peace are to be found; I 'could have wiſh'd to have ſeen you happily ſitu-'ated firſt; but heaven's will be done. You muſt 'fulfil the melancholy office of being my executor, 'and I wiſh it were better worth your while; all I 'leave, after my body is return'd to it's native 'duſt, and my debts diſcharg'd, is yours. Tell 'me then, how you deſign to ſhape your courſe, 'whether you will ſtay here, which I dare ſay will 'be in your own option, or venture into the world, 'and try to overtake that fortune which has hither-'to ſeem'd to fly from you.'

Fred ric.'s

Frederick's tears choak'd up the paſſage of ſpeech, which the worthy man tried to ſtop, by telling him the neceſſity and happineſs of death; and at laſt obtain'd Frederick's anſwer, which was, that when he was gone, Yorkſhire wou'd have no more charms for him. 'I imagin'd, replied Mr. Goodman, it 'would be ſo; but, my child, conſider, you have 'no friends, no relations, and even with the beſt, 'tis difficult to gain advancement; ſomething muſt 'be done, in order to recommend you, I know 'but one way, which is to have a certificate for-'mally drawn up, which I will ſign, and to which 'I will get the miniſter and other perſons of credit 'to ſet their hands, which will prove you to be 'faithful and honeſt, and no impoſtor.'

Frederick made the beſt acknowledgments he could to Mr. Goodman, who order'd a perſon, who jobb'd in law affairs, that liv'd juſt by, to be ſent for, not only to draw up this inſtrument, but another, to intitle him to all his effects. The certificate was in the following terms.

'This is to inform all whom it may concern, 'that in September, 17---- a child nam'd Frede-'rick, was plac'd under my care, by a gentleman, 'who ſaid his name was Green, but of whoſe ſitu-'ation, abode, &c. &c. I am ignorant. That 'for the ten following years, he conſtantly paid 'me for the education, board, cloaths, &c. of the 'ſaid Frederick: that at the expiration of the ſaid 'term of years, I receiv'd an anonymous letter, 'informing me that no farther proviſion wou'd be 'made for him, nor have I ſince that time heard 'or ſeen any thing of the ſaid Mr. Green, nor has 'the ſaid Frederick been acknowledg'd by any

'perſon.

'perſon. That finding him deſtitute, I had him 'bound to me as an articled clerk, for the term 'of ſeven years. That he has behav'd himſelf 'truly, faithfully and honeſtly, in every particular. 'To the truth of this I witneſs my hand,'

Thomas Goodman.

We whoſe names are underwritten, have known Mr. Goodman for many years, and believe the truth of what he aſſerts, with regard to Frederick, whom we know to be a very ſober, honeſt young man, and deſerving of encouragement.

ROBERT WELLER, miniſter.
CHARLES WILMOT, } Eſqrs.
HENRY THOMPSON, }

----in Yorkſhire, this 20th day of May 17----

It is not to be doubted but this publication of Frederick's hiſtory gave him ſome concern, and it is probable that if he had ſtaid much longer in thoſe parts, he would have found ſome diſagreeable effects ariſing from it: but the time was now approaching, that he was to quit,

The cool ſequeſter'd vale of life,
For, *The madding crowd's ignoble ſtrife.*

Mr. Goodman liv'd but a ſhort time after he had made this proviſion for his dear Frederick's welfare. That time was fill'd up by Frederick's teſtifying the utmoſt tenderneſs, honour and eſteem, for his worthy benefactor, and in Mr. Goodman's giving him the beſt advice for his future conduct. I ſhall ſhorten, as much as poſſible, a ſcene, of which

which we have already had ſo many, that they muſt begin to grow tedious as well as melancholy; for notwithſtanding,

The chamber where the good man meets his fate,
Is privileg'd beyond the common walk
Of virtuous life, quite in the verge of heav'n,

'Tis a ſcene, which the young, the gay, thoſe who are eager in purſuit of earthly joys, chuſe to ſhun, nor even the old, love to contemplate, as it brings too nearly to their view, that death, they ſoon muſt taſte.

Mr. Goodman reſign'd himſelf to death with that calm chearfulneſs, that lively hope, which only the good can know. His life had been little more than an uninterrupted chain of diſappointment, diſtreſs and ſorrow; gladly therefore did he exchange it for that glorious immortality, which was undoubtedly his reward.

Frederick's tears were far from reſembling thoſe of moſt heirs; he had loſt a father, a friend, a benefactor, all in one. He had a ſoul capable of the moſt tender affection, and the moſt lively gratitude. How did he revolve every act and word of the dear departed man, who for ſixteen years he had lov'd with the greateſt ſincerity? and now, Mrs. Goodman's maternal kindneſs, miſs Nancy's fate, which he believ'd hapleſs, aroſe freſh to his remembrance. His mind was overcharg'd with ſorrow, and for ſome days he ſeem'd as a ſtupid monument of grief. The gentlemen who had been acquainted with his ſtory, endeavour'd to comfort him, and even ventur'd to promiſe him the place of uſher to the perſon who was to ſup-

ply

ply the place of his late dear maſter. But this he cou'd by no means think of; tho' he was at the laſt conſol'd by their friendly arguments, and began to take cognizance of his new poſſeſſions. He had been incapable of inſpecting any thing with regard to the expences occaſion'd by the death of his maſter; thoſe who had done it, were very honeſt people, who had taken care to pay themſelves very ſufficiently, and even to ſave Frederick the trouble of diſpoſing of ſome moveables that ſuited their inclination: the reſt he put up for ſale, and was perfectly contented with the price the purchaſers choſe to give, ſo that his whole fortune, including his own twenty pounds, which had remain'd untouch'd, did not amount to above fourſcore pounds. He was quite unſettled in his thoughts, how he ſhou'd diſpoſe of himſelf, but at laſt concluded to go to London, where he thought it moſt likely to hear of ſome emp'oy; ſuch as might ſuit his talents and inclination.

Being come to this reſolution, he pack'd up his cloaths, money, indentures and certificate, and takeing leave of all his acquaintance, took a place in the ſtage-coach for London.

The company in the coach were of the moſt agreeable kind, and Frederick's preſent temper but ill ſuited for ſociety, tho' he found that,

Solitude's the nurſe of woe,

yet he rather choſe to indulge his own melancholy reflections, than attend to the inſipid converſation of his fellow-travellers; on this account he frequently got out, and walk'd ſeveral miles thro' the fields, adjoining to the road.

One

One day, as he was obſerving the ſeveral proſpects which aroſe to his view, he ſaw a young gentleman coming towards him, whom he thought he knew, and who prov'd to be Mr. Vaughan, a young gentleman about his own age, who had been educated at Mr. Goodman's, and with whom he had been more intimate than with any other of his companions. Friendſhip is warmer in young minds than in thoſe, who in a length of days have diſcover'd its fallacies. They flew with eagerneſs to each others embraces; the firſt tranſports over, Mr. Vaughan took notice of Mr. Frederick's ſable dreſs, and tenderly ask'd the reaſon. Frederick, with heaving ſighs, told the cauſe, and Mr. Vaughan dropt a tear to the memory of his old maſter: he then ask'd Mr. Frederick whither he was going? to which Mr. Frederick anſwer'd, 'To London, to ſeek my fortune.' And then related his ſituation, which he determin'd to conceal no longer than while he continued in Yorkſhire, hoping by the relation of his ſtory, to diſcover his origin. Mr. Vaughan was aſtoniſh'd at the Tale. Then, 'Well, ſaid he, this is very lucky; my father is come to a reſolution, that I ſhall make the grand tour, and has given me leave to take any young gentleman of good principles with me, as a companion, whoſe expences he will bear; now if you chuſe to leave England, and accompany me, I dare ſay there will be no objections; come with me, my father is at the next inn.' This propoſal ſuited ſo well with Frederick's wiſhes that he did not debate a moment, and as the coach was to bait at that very inn, he inſtantly went thither. Mr. Vaughan introduc'd his friend to his father, and ſpoke of him in ſuch terms as wou'd have biaſs'd him in his favour, had he not been

been addicted to two attendants on old age, caution and ſuſpicion; he view'd Frederick with a careful eye, and minutely inquir'd his birth, parentage, and education. Frederick ran over the account of his life, and produc'd his indentures and certificate, which Mr. Vaughan ſenior having look'd cunningly over, 'So, young gentleman, 'ſaid he, you think I am ſuch a buzzard as to 'be impos'd on in this manner, d'ye? egad, you 'are miſtaken tho'. Pray, Mr. Unknown, take 'your papers again, and impoſe on ſomebody 'elſe, who has more credulity, and you, Mr. 'Rakeſhame, be pleas'd to introduce no more of 'your muſhroom acquaintance to me; get out of 'the room, ſir, I don't chooſe to have any thing 'to ſay to people who travel with paſſes, and 'you may thank your ſtars, I don't ſend for a 'conſtable, and commit you for an impoſtor, for 'I am in the king's commiſſion.' What a reception was this, for Frederick, on his firſt advances into life! he ſtood indignantly amaz'd, nor was he able to make any reply, nor, 'till old Mr. Vaughan repeated his commands to him, to quit the room, did he obey. Young Mr. Vaughan was forc'd to ſtay to take his lecture, but found means to leave his father before Frederick had left the inn. 'How 'much am I aſham'd (ſaid he to that young gen-'tle man) of my father's behaviour! but I hope 'my dear Frederick you will not remember it to 'my prejudice: if I live to be my own maſter, 'I will convince you of the ſincerity of my friend-'ſhip; in the mean time accept this token of my 'eſteem, (putting a purſe into his hand) and may 'good fortune attend you.' Mr. Frederick, low as his circumſtances were, wou'd have refus'd this, but Mr. Vaughan was not to be refus'd. They parted with reciprocal promiſes of friendſhip;

Mr.

Mr. Vaughan return'd to his father, and Frederick took his place in the coach, highly diſſatisfied with his firſt ſucceſſes.

Nothing worthy notice happen'd in the following part of his journey; at the inn, he parted with his companions, who had every one ſome place to go to. He now ſeem'd more forlorn than ever; at laſt, he ask'd the people if he could have a bed? to which they replied in the affirmative; he then ordered ſomething for his ſupper, and while that was dreſſing, amus'd himſelf with reading the newspaper, in which he found the following advertiſement.

WANTED,

'A young man, who is perfect in accompts, to go 'abroad as ſteward in a man of war. If he is ma- 'ſter of the languages, and has made ſome progreſs 'in the belles lettres, it will be the more agreeable. 'The terms are good, and if his appearances 'and accompliſhments anſwer, he will be treated 'more as a companion than a ſervant. Any one that 'this may ſuit, is deſir'd to apply between the hours 'of ten and twelve at the admiralty coffee-houſe, and 'enquire for A. Z.

Frederick was ſtruck with this; he thought he cou'd anſwer theſe requeſts, and the notion of being on the footing of a gentleman, prevail'd on him to go in ſearch of it, for I muſt not pretend to conceal his vices. He had ſtill that pride, that grandeur of thinking, which has before been notic'd; which, while it preſerv'd him from mean actions, made him think ſervitude a diſgrace to him who ſeem'd born to command. However,

ever, it was neceſſary he ſhou'd get ſome employ; his little ſtock wou'd ſoon be exhauſted, and as this advertiſement ſeem'd to promiſe well, he determin'd to go in ſearch of it. When he had come to this reſolution, he inquir'd how far it was to the admiralty coffee-houſe? on which the people began a bead-roll of directions, of turning to the right, then to to the left, ſo ſtrait forward, thro' this court and t'other alley, that Frederick quite forgot the beginning, before they had half finiſh'd: he ſtopt 'em ſhort with aſking if he could not have a hackney coach? to which they anſwer'd, yes, for two ſhillings, which ſum he reſolv'd to beſtow to ſave both his head and heels. He ſpent the greateſt part of the night, in conſidering how he ſhou'd introduce himſelf; Mr. Vaughan's reception, was ſufficient to have put him out of conceit with truth, and have made him become a real impoſtor, to prevent being taken for one; but at length he reſolv'd to follow Piercy's advice.

O, while you live tell truth and ſhame the devil.

The next morning, he aroſe early, and opening his portmanteau, took out a new ſuit of light grey cloaths, trimm'd with black, which his taylor, unwilling to loſe a cuſtomer, had made up for his late maſter's death (it being now time to change his mourning) with a black ſatten waiſtcoat, ſilk ſtockings, handſome buckles, a clean ruffled ſhirt and a good hat. His own hair, was extremely fine, and without the addition of powder, gave an admirable grace to his features. When he was dreſs'd, he had an elegance and gentility in his perſon, which even ſtruck the people at the inn, who had taken no notice of him in his travelling dreſs. He then left his effects in charge with the inn-keeper, had a coach

call'd, and ordered himſelf to be conveyed to the admiralty coffee-houſe. His eyes found ſufficient employment in his way thither; the number of ſtreets, ſhops and inhabitants, gave him a high idea of the opulence and Grandeur of London; the buſy air that appeared, made him admire their induſtry, and their chearful lively looks, made him think himſelf in a place, where merit and aſſiduity were rewarded with riches and content. The only thing that pain'd him, was the frequent ſight of poor, maim'd, miſerable wretches, ſome appearing as ſoldiers, others as ſailors, who,

With half their limbs in battle lopt,
Beg bitter bread, thro' realms their valour ſav'd.

He could not help wondering that in a country govern'd by ſuch excellent laws, and where proviſion was made by every pariſh, for the poor, that there was not ſome regulation made to prevent thoſe poor creatures feeling miſery in ſo high a degree, and being a diſgrace to a nation, as much fam'd for generoſity as bravery.

His attention was often diverted from other objects, by the many ſmart females, that tript along the ſtreets; their natural or acquir'd beauty, the gentility of their dreſs; the freedom, yet modeſt freedom, of their air, made him ready to cry out,

O London, London! O woman, woman!
Here thou liveſt! here thou ſhineſt!

Theſe, and ſuch thoughts took up his mind, till he arrived at the deſtin'd place, where he alit, and going into the coffee-room, aſk'd a waiter, if a gentleman, who ſtiled himſelf A. Z. was to be ſpoke with?

with? 'You mean captain Johnſon,' replied the waiter; and going to that gentleman, informed him, that a young gentleman wanted him. The captain inſtantly came towards him, and after they had exchang'd bows, 'Pray, ſir, what is your buſineſs with 'me? 'I came hither in conſequence of an adver-'tiſement, for a perſon to go abroad; I believe, ſir, 'you are the gentleman to whom application was 'to be made.' 'You are very right, ſir,' anſwered the captain (already prepoſſeſs'd by Frederick's appearance) 'Waiter, can I have a private room?' the waiter inſtantly ſhewed him one, and after a few ceremonials the gentlemen were ſeated, but not before the captain had aſk'd Frederick whether he choſe chocolate, coffee, or tea, and had order'd that which he pitch'd on, to be brought.

If captain Johnſon was taken with Frederick's looks, Frederick was no leſs pleas'd with him; he wore the naval uniform; he was about forty, tall and well made, of rather a melancholy aſpect, but yet with a great mixture of ſweetneſs and good-nature, and not without that manly look, which denotes that bravery and reſolution which ought to diſtinguiſh a commander.

It has been long an obſervation, that Engliſhmen muſt have ſome introductory diſcourſe, before they come to the buſineſs they meet to converſe on; we are to ſuppoſe this was not omitted, after which, 'I don't doubt, began the captain, but my adver-'tiſement has occaſioned a good deal of ridicule a-'mong my brother tars, and thoſe who think lite-'rature incompatible with a ſailor's life; but as I 'chooſe to pleaſe myſelf when it is in my power, 'and not inconſiſtent with my duty, I ſhall leave 'the ſneerers to enjoy their mirth. I own my in-

'clinations are not ſuited to a ſeafaring life, tho' I 'have long been us'd to it, and as I am honour'd 'with his majeſty's commiſſion, wou'd on no ac-'count quit my poſt of honour for a private ſtation. 'I am often inclin'd to be melancholy, and then the 'loud, boiſterous converſation of my ſhip's crew, 'is far from being agreeable to me. There are ma-'ny hours in which I cou'd enjoy the pleaſure of 'converſing with a ſenſible learned perſon, and as 'there are many ſuch, whoſe fortunes are much 'beneath their merit, I ſhou'd take a great plea-'ſure in making it well worth ſuch a perſon's 'while to accompany me. I ſhall be glad to know 'your motives for ſeeking this ſituation, that I 'may know better what offers to make you.' Here he ſtopt, and Frederick bluſh'd, hemm'd, big with the mighty ſecret of his no birth, which he at laſt reſolved to divulge, and began as follows:

'My ſtory, ſir, is ſo very ſtrange, that I am 'almoſt afraid to relate it, and the more ſo, as I 'have already loſt the proſpect of one proviſion, 'and been inſulted, treated with rudeneſs and in-'juſtice for telling the truth; but as I wou'd by no 'means impoſe on any gentleman, I ſhall make no 'ſecret of the real ſituation I have been, and am 'now in.'

Here he gave captain Johnſon a faithful account of every circumſtance I have related, to which that gentleman paid the moſt complaiſant attention, ſave, when the tender emotions of humanity wou'd have way: when he had done, 'Now, ſir, ſaid he, you 'know my whole hiſtory, and if you have ſo much 'generoſity, as to take me on that and my late dear 'friend's recommendation, it ſhall be my conſtant

'endeavour

'endeavour to convince you I am not ungrateful nor 'unworthy your notice.'

Captain Johnſon was ſilent a few moments, but not ballancing whether he ſhould believe or no; he had diſcovered ſo much good ſenſe, ſo great a proficiency in thoſe branches of literature, which accidentally occur'd, ſo juſt a way of thinking and reaſoning in our young hero, that admiration lock'd his tongue. With Frederick the caſe was far different, to him it was the dreadful moment of fate in ſuſpence; he fear'd even to look at captain Johnſon, leſt he ſhou'd read condemnation in his eye. At laſt, the dreadful ſilence was broke in theſe words.

'Excuſe me, Mr. Frederick, I am ſo wrapt up 'in your ſtory, that I forget politeneſs exacts an 'immediate anſwer; ſo far from ſuſpecting your 'veracity, I pay an implicit faith to every circum-'ſtance, and am glad to have found a perſon, whom 'I can ſo much to my own ſatisfaction, make happy. Your appearance made me your friend at 'firſt ſight, and your melancholy narration has fix-'ed me ſo. We ſhall have time enough to talk of 'terms; mean time, I inſiſt on your going with me 'to my brother's, where you ſhall take up your 'abode till we ſail; my ſervant ſhall fetch your 'baggage from the inn, and ſatisfy their demands, 'for I have been like David Simple, long in ſearch 'of a friend, and now I have found one, who, I 'hope, and do not doubt, will prove ſo, I will not 'part with you.'

The acknowledgments Frederick made, wou'd loſe in repetition; I ſhall therefore leave the reader the pleaſure of exerting his own imagination for an anſwer; but muſt premiſe, that it muſt be ſuch

a one as could not fail of giving ſatisfaction to captain Johnſon. Matters being brought to this concluſion, they left the coffee-houſe, and proceeded to colonel Johnſon's. In their way thither, they paſs'd thro' the park, where Frederick's ſenſes were ſtruct with a new object: the guard were relieving; the martial drum, the ear piercing fife, warm'd Frederick's breaſt with ardor before unknown. Courage ſtood confeſs'd in his eyes, every pulſe beat with double force, his heart dilated, and every nerve ſeem'd new-ſtrung, with the violence of his heroick emotion. Captain Johnſon took notice of his diſorder, and enquir'd the cauſe, to which Frederick was incapable of giving a ſatisfactory anſwer, till the captain perceiv'd by the eager attention with which he view'd the ſoldiers, the occaſion of his emotion, and then; 'The effect this 'ſight has on you, gives me pleaſure, but don't 'be impatient, in a few days we ſhall be ſeeking 'honour even in the cannon's mouth.' He then explain'd to Frederick, the different ranks and orders, as they march'd, and that ſo much to his ſatisfaction, that he thought till then, he had been in embryo, and that this was his natal day; for tho' he had long been acquainted with all the military heroes, both ancient and modern, yet never before did he ſo truly enter into the ſpirit of martial heroiſm.

They came to colonel Johnſon's, who on his brother's introduction, gave a very polite reception to Mr. Frederick, who had inſtantly an apartment allotted him, and was treated as one of the family.

Colonel Johnſon, was ſome years older than his brother; he was a man of a very gay, unthinking diſpoſition, was good-natur'd and generous even

to

to an exceſs; he had been many years in the army, and had imbib'd all the principles common to the gentlemen of the ſword. He kept a handſome houſe, in which his brother conſtantly had an apartment, and which was generally govern'd by a fair lady, for whom the colonel had a great tendre.

Captain Johnſon related Frederick's ſtory to the colonel, who was much taken with it, and behav'd with ſuch kindneſs to Frederick, that he thought he was fallen among angels; nor did the two brothers fail to tell it to ſeveral gentlemen of their acquaintance, and that with ſuch praiſes, which Frederick's appearance confirm'd them in the belief of their being deſerv'd, that he very ſoon had a large party in his favour.

Fortune however had like to have play'd Frederick a ſlippery trick, which might have involv'd him in ſome diſaſters. Mrs. Johnſon (as ſhe was commonly call'd) had beheld Frederick with a favourable eye, ever ſince his firſt appearance at the colonel's, which his behaviour, and the praiſes ſhe conſtantly heard given, ſerv'd only to increaſe. She treated him with great familiarity, but Frederick was yet too ignorant to interpret her meaning; at length, ſhe came to a reſolution, to write a billet to him, depending on his honour for the ſafety of her reputation, and not doubting the force of her charms, or the readineſs with which Frederick wou'd embrace her offers.

As this was the firſt trial of the kind Frederick had been expos'd to, as we can't anſwer for his behaviour in ſuch a caſe, and tho' it wou'd have been extremely unpolite to have let a fair lady

fue

ſue in vain; yet in ſpite of all faſhionable maxims, it would have been but an ungrateful return for the colonel's kindneſs, thus to have invaded the laws of hoſpitality. It is therefore with pleaſure I inform my readers, that the day before ſhe propos'd acquainting Frederick with the honour ſhe intended him, captain Johnſon receiv'd orders to ſet out directly for Portſmouth, where his ſhip lay, and to embark with the utmoſt expedition.

Frederick had ſettled his terms with the captain, which were very advantageous: and taking leave of the colonel and his lady, with many thanks for their favours, he was pack'd into a poſt-chaiſe with the captain; and arriv'd ſafe at Portſmouth, where they went aboard the ------ man of war, and every thing being ſettled for their voyage, they weigh'd anchor, cut cable, hoiſted ſail, and were ſoon floating on the watery element.

This ſhip was ſent out in company with ſeveral others, to intercept a fleet of French merchantmen, convoyed by ſome men of war, who were daily expected; but either the intelligence which gave an account of their approach, was too haſty, or they were informed that they were way-laid by the Engliſh fleet, they cruis'd ſeveral days in expectation, to no purpoſe.

Captain Johnſon's eſteem for Frederick, increas'd daily, and Frederick found ſo much to admire in captain Johnſon, that he had the moſt grateful regard for him. The leiſure which the enemy gave them, afforded them many opportunities for converſation, and that of the moſt agreeable kind imaginable; captain Johnſon's acquaintance with the world made him capable of rectifying Frederick's notions

notions on many important points, and his deeper learning enabled him to clear many circumſtances to the captain, which had hitherto been abſtruſe: thus were both inſtructed and entertain'd; and while their judgment was improv'd, their friendſhip was cemented. One day, their diſcourſe turning on poetry; 'I fancy, ſaid the captain, you are a vo-'tary to the muſes.' 'Why ſo, ſir?' 'Your 'perfect acquaintance with the claſſicks, your 'competent knowledge of the rules of poeſy, and 'your admiration of the good poets, make me 'think ſo. I'm willing to be convinc'd; there 'are the writing utenſils, ſit down, and let me 'ſee if I am in the right; chooſe what ſubject you 'will, and I give you an hour to make your attempt 'in.'

Frederick wou'd have excus'd himſelf, aſſuring the captain he had never made any attempts that way; but he was not to be denied, and taking up a book, 'You ſee, ſir, I have got company, with 'whom it will be ill-manners to interrupt me, 'ſo pray go to the ladies, who demand your at-'tendance.'

Frederick took the pen in his right hand, fix'd his left elbow on the table, put one leg over the other, reclin'd his head a little on one ſide, letting his cheek reſt on the palm of his left hand, and after muſing a few moments, began to ſtain the virgin purity of a ſheet of paper which was ſpread before him, with the following rhimes.

To thee, O ſacred friendſhip, hail!
What ſolid joy doſt thou inſpire!
Without thee, nature's bleſſings fail
To yield the tranſports we require.

Tho'

Tho' bleſs'd with honour, youth and health,
The mind ſtill craves for ſomething more,
Poſſeſt of earth's ſupremeſt wealth,
The friendleſs monarch of a world is poor.

Earth's joys as ſwift as thought decay,
They yield to fancy, faſhion, time,
But friendſhip's bright'ning, cheering ray,
Still ſhines more pure, grows more ſublime.

When piercing cares annoy the heart,
(And who on earth from care is free?)
Thy lenient had allays the ſmart,
We find a pleaſing cure in thee.

Th' ambitious, golden dreams may pleaſe,
But to thoſe toys I'll ne'er pretend,
Grant me, health, innocence and eaſe,
And crown your favours with a FRIEND.

Having finiſh'd this ode, he approach'd captain Johnſon: 'To ſhew you, ſir, how implicit an obe-'dience I pay to your commands, there is my 'coupe de eſſai in poetry.' The captain took it; read it once or twice over, and then looking affectionately attentive on Frederick,

------ *The friendſhips of the world, are oft,*
Confederacies in vice, or leagues in pleaſure;
Ours has ſevereſt virtue for its baſis,
And ſuch a friendſhip ends not, but with life.

Frederick bow'd low, in return for the anſwer the captain had given to his lines, and neither of 'em were diſſatisfied with the ſucceſs of the attempt.

But

But now the time drew nigh, which was to open a new ſcene to Frederick, a ſcene dreadfully glorious; the French fleet appear'd in ſight, and the Engliſh commanders gave orders for the neceſſary preparations for an engagement, and in caſe the Frenchmen ſhou'd attempt to ſteer off, to crowd all their ſail, and give chaſe to them.

Captain Johnſon diſplay'd, on this occaſion, a vivacity which his looks were far from promiſing; he made, with indefatigable zeal, the beſt diſpoſition in his ſhip that could be; he ſeem'd to be every where at once, exhorting and animating his men, with ſuch ſpirit in his words and looks, as aſſur'd them of victory. Finding the French fleet (who were now near them) made a ſtand, and fell into the line of battle, he claſp'd Frederick in his arms, 'This one embrace, my friend, (ſaid he) 'ere the tremendous moment comes, perhaps it 'may be the laſt! if it is heaven's will I fall, I 'am content, ſince it will be in defence of my 'country and my ſovereign. If you ſurvive me, 'my brother will ſupply my place to you. If 'heaven grants ſucceſs to our arms, and crowns 'my endeavour with victory you ſhall ſhare my 'joy.' Frederick was too much affected to make any anſwer; and now the ſhips were within gun-ſhot, and all the clangours of war began to echo to the diſtant ſhores, who expected with diſmay, to know the reſult of the engagement.

My pen is incapable of painting this ſcene with that force which is neceſſary to do juſtice to the bravery, magnanimity, and intrepidity of the Engliſh ſailors; but let it ſuffice to ſay, that they fought like men reſolv'd on glorious death or conqueſt.

queſt. Every commandor exerted himſelf to the utmoſt, and captain Johnſon that day convinc'd the world, that true courage does not conſiſt in big looks, and high ſounding words: he ſav'd his ſhip by the greateſt prudence, from the moſt imminent danger, and gave France bleeding tokens of his valour; tho' harraſs'd and fatigued extremely, he could not be perſuaded to quit the deck, even for a moment, till a cannon ball ſhatter'd his leg, and forc'd him to ſubmit to be carried to his cabin.

Frederick's ſoul had caught the noble ardour, which inflam'd every breaſt in the fleet, and now, or life or death with glory was equal to his choice; but how was his courage dampt, when he ſaw his dear captain carried bleeding to his cabin, he melted into ſoftneſs, but it was but for a moment, revenge now inſpir'd him, and he flew with eager rage to endeavour to return with intereſt the wounds his friend had receiv'd. His ignorance in theſe affairs, together with his temerity, wou'd have expos'd him to inevitable danger, when the captain ſent to deſire he wou'd inſtantly come to him.

Frederick enter'd the cabin with grief and rage in his looks; the captain was lying on a couch, the ſurgeon and mate ſtanding by him, who had examin'd the fracture, and declar'd immediate amputation abſolutely neceſſary. As ſoon as he ſaw Frederick, he held out his hand to him, 'You 'ſee, Frederick, the fate of war, a wooden leg, 'or a golden chain is the ſailor's reward, and the 'former has prov'd to be mine.' Frederick, amaz'd at the temper with which he bore his misfortune, was at a loſs for words, and wanted that conſolation

conſolation he propoſed giving the captain. It was with ſome pleaſure he heard the diſcourſe of the ſurgeons, they gave great hopes of the captain's life, the calmneſs of his ſpirits giving them reaſon to think he might eſcape a fever, from which more danger was to be apprehended than the loſs of his leg. He deſir'd Frederick not to leave him, who was readily prevail'd on to ſatisfy his demand; tho' the ſight of the performance of the chirurgical operation, ſhock'd his humanity ſo much, that I believe he felt much more pain than captain Johnſon did.

But now the loud huzza's of the honeſt tars, inform'd them that victory had declar'd in favour of Britain. Several of the moſt valuable of the French ſhips had ſtruck to the ſuperior valour of our men of war, others were ſunk, and thoſe which had maintain'd a running fight, were ſo much diſabled, that it was not thought they could get into port.

It was with great delight captain Johnſon heard this news; nor did it give Frederick leſs pleaſure; he had long ſince had very high notions of the honour of his country, but he now mortally hated France, nor could he even bring himſelf to think of captain Johnſon's accident as the chance of war, notwithſtanding that gentleman's behaviour ſhew'd him, that,

The brave meet every accident with equal minds.

But the impetuoſity of youth, the ardency of affection, will plead an excuſe for Frederick's reſentment.

A council of war was now call'd, and it was agreed to make the beſt ſail they could for the firſt Engliſh port they could reach. The winds favour'd them, and they arriv'd without any accident at the deſtin'd place.

This victory not only redounded to the Britiſh glory, but paid the ſailors well for their valour; the captures were very rich, and captain Johnſon had taken care that his brave young friend, ſhou'd ſhare the advantages and honours, as well as he had done the dangers of the engagement.

It was thought abſolutely requiſite to remove captain Johnſon from on board, as ſoon as they came to land; his mutilated leg was in a fair way of doing well, but that, and ſome other wounds he had receiv'd, made it appear likely that he wou'd not be able to go to ſea again in haſte.

As ſoon as he was able to travel, he was convey'd to London, whither it is preſuppos'd Frederick accompanied him: They found the colonel in doleful dumps; his lady had thought proper to leave him, for the ſake of a young enſign, for whom her regard had tempted her to make free with ſome of the colonel's money, and to remove all thoſe valuables he had laviſh'd on her. As ſoon as the firſt fraternal compliments, congratulations, and condolements were over, he gave his brother an account of Mrs. Scott's (for that was her real name) perfidy, vowing revenge on her and her young gallant (rejoice, reader, that Frederick eſcap'd her ſnare) from which the captain endeavour'd to diſſuade him, urging that what he griev'd for, was better loſt than found. As the colonel was of a very

very volatile diſpoſition, his reſentment and ſorrow ſoon ſubſided.

Captain Johnſon's recovery (notwithſtanding the hopes the ſurgeons gave) was ſo ſlow, the ſhip he commanded ſo much wanted on another expedition, fame ſo ſilent in his praiſe, and the perſons in power ſo cool to his merits, that he was put on the ſuperannuated liſt. The little liking he had to a ſea-faring life, and the advantages accruing from that engagement which had coſt him his leg, made him very eaſy under his new circumſtances.

He had long beheld, with uneaſineſs, the thoughtleſs life the colonel led; he one day took an opportunity to expatiate freely on that ſubject; he remonſtrated to him the little occaſion he had to be at the expence of keeping a houſe, at which all boon companions were welcome; as he gave the moſt elegant entertainments, and drank the moſt expenſive wines, it cou'd not be conſiſtent with his intereſt. 'You 'have now loſt Mrs. Scott, which might have 'been ſome plea, and for my part, as I am made 'a man of peace, I propoſe living in the country 'with my mother. You are often oblig'd to be 'with your regiment, therefore a ready furniſh'd 'lodging, when you are in town, wou'd be juſt as 'well, and ſave you an expence too great for your 'income.

The colonel was eaſily convinc'd of the truth of captain Johnſon's reaſoning; the ſame thoughts had occur'd to him, but as he was of an indolently gay diſpoſition, he had baniſh'd them as ſoon as poſſible, to ſave himſelf trouble; at laſt, the captain's arguments prevail'd, and nothing now remain'd, but

his leaving London, to retard the execution of his advice.

Some time elaps'd, ere the diviſion of the prize money was made, which the captain choſe to ſee done before he retired: at laſt that affair was finiſhed, and ſo much to his ſatisfaction, that he thought he was enabled to paſs the reſt of his days without the anxiety of deſiring more wealth.

Frederick's ſhare amounted to about twelve hundred pounds, which, tho' a great ſum to him, did not immediately inſpire him with any thoughts of detaching himſelf from captain Johnſon. He was yet unacquainted with the gay part of life, for tho' the colonel wou'd often have engag'd him to ſhare with him the publick diverſions, yet his gratitude and fidelity to the captain made him refuſe to accept thoſe offers, which were more ſuitable to his hour of life, than a ſick man's chamber.

At length, all the captain's affairs being ſettled, he ſet out for Glouceſterſhire, accompanied by Frederick, intending to paſs the the reſt of his days in quiet with his mother, for whom he had the moſt tender regard.

Captain Johnſon had not liv'd all his life, without experiencing the pains of love. There liv'd in the ſame pariſh he was born in, a gentleman whoſe name was Burton, whoſe wife and Mrs. Johnſon had been ſincere friends; Mrs. Burton, when dying, recommended her only daughter to Mrs. Johnſon's care.

Captain Johnſon was ſome years older than the lady, and the natural gravity of his temper, made the

the difference greater; he early obſerv'd her with tenderneſs, and watch'd her growing beauties, with a lover's caution: the friendſhip which ſubſiſted between their families, encourag'd him to hope for a favourable anſwer, whenever he ſhou'd propoſe his ſuit, but he had too much delicacy to treat for a wife in the common Smithfield way, nor did he even declare himſelf to his mother (whom he knew to have a great influence over Miſs Burton) till he had ſounded the lady. He choſe a favourable opportunity, and in words, where ſincerity and affection center'd, told her how long and how much he had and did admire her; profeſs'd his happineſs depended on her; and begg'd a return to his love. All his endeavours were fruitleſs, and though he us'd as much rhetorick as any man, prepoſſeſs'd to the utmoſt extent of love's power cou'd do, yet he cou'd obtain no anſwer that gave him the leaſt hope. He was willing to impute her refuſals to reſervedneſs, coyneſs, or what is not uncommon, a knowledge of her power, and continued his addreſſes, but to no more purpoſe than at firſt; yet he had the ſatisfaction, that if ſhe refus'd him, 'twas no worſe treatment than ſhe gave to ſeveral gentlemen who addreſs'd her, ſome on her own account, others for the ſake of her fortune, thro' her father's mediation, all of whom ſhe rejected, ſo that he comforted himſelf, if he was not belov'd, yet nobody was prefer'd before him.

However, as ſome years had paſs'd ſince his firſt declaration, he became wearied with an application which ſeem'd to promiſe no ſucceſs; he therefore laid aſide the paſſionate lover, and whenever they met, either behav'd as the friend, or rallied her on her obduracy, to which ſhe always returned an-

ſwers full of ſpirit and good humour, but without the leaſt marks of affection.

Miſs Burton happen'd to be with Mrs. Johnſon on the day that ſhe expected her ſon to arrive, and no ſooner did the latter hear the ſignal of his coming, given by the rattling of the poſt-chaiſe, than ſhe forgot the ceremony due to her viſitor, and flew to receive her ſon.

Captain Johnſon was much fatigued with his journey; he had not yet learnt the uſe of the piece of wood which ſupplied the loſs of the leg he had ſo honourably loſt, ſo was oblig'd to be ſupported by Frederick and his ſervant from the poſt-chaiſe to the parlour, preceded by his mother, who had already beſtowed thoſe carreſſes which ſhe thought due to a beloved and unfortunate child.

As ſoon as he entered the parlour, and perceiv'd Miſs Burton, 'You ſee, madam, ſaid he, what love 'and glory have brought me to, I have been ſe-'verely us'd for ſeeking the latter, which the for-'mer forc'd me to, and now it is your place to re-'ward me for my ſufferings; ſay, am I ſtill to ſigh 'in vain?'

If the dear youth her pity ſtrives to move,
No more ſhe truſts to pride's fantaſtick aid,
But bids her eyes confeſs the yielding maid.

'No, Mr. Johnſon replied miſs Burton (burſt-'ing into tears,) tho' I have been hitherto un-'grateful, yet I will be ſo no more; I am convinc'd 'of your merits, and will for the future, endeavour 'to deſerve that regard I have ſo long and ſo un-'worthily deſpis'd.'

Captain

Captain Johnſon was ſo much amaz'd at this unexpected behaviour, that he cou'dn't help aſking her very ſeriouſly whether ſhe was in earneſt? ſhe had arriv'd to that pitch of perfection, to be above diſſimulation, nor did the preſence of Mrs. Johnſon and Frederick, prevent her from aſſuring him in the affirmative.

The joy he found in this unhop'd for ſucceſs, join'd to the care his mother took of him, ſoon compleated his cure, and to crown his felicity, he receiv'd the conſecrated vows of his belov'd miſs Burton; and tho' he enter'd into the matrimonial ſtate, when the lamp lit by Cupid might be thought to be expiring, and when he was in the vale of life; yet his ſhare of happineſs was not only equal, but even ſuperior to many who have apparently greater cauſe for hope.

Frederick's behaviour, join'd to captain Johnſon's friendſhip for him, had gain'd him the eſteem of the two Mrs. Johnſon's in a high degree, and for ſome months after the marriage, no family cou'd be more thoroughly agreeable; when captain Johnſon receiv'd the following letter from his brother the colonel.

Dear brother,

My congratulatory compliments ought to have attended you and my ſiſter ere this, but I depend on your affection to place my omiſſion to my hatred of writing. The following is the cauſe of my doing it now. Lieutenant Sutton of my regiment, wants to diſpoſe of his commiſſion, which I think wou'd be a pretty thing for your friend Frederick, whom I imagine you can now

ſpare,

ſpare, as you have now a more agreeable companion if he approves of it, I can manage the purchaſe to his advantage, and he may depend on my friendſhip. My affectionate remembrances wait on my mother and ſiſter. I am, dear Jack,

Yours, &c.

Robert Johnſon.

Captain Johnſon ſhew'd this letter to Frederick, who felt all the emotions that the deſire of fame, and the love of his friend cou'd raiſe in a warm breaſt: captain Johnſon obſerv'd his agitation, he remember'd his behaviour in the park the firſt day he ſaw him, he thought it wrong that a noble martial ſpirit ſhou'd be crampt within the narrow confines of a country village, and thus addreſs'd him; 'I am ſenſible, my dear Frederick, of your 'regard to me, but at the ſame time, know how 'incapable I am of rewarding your merits as I 'cou'd wiſh, therefore if you are inclin'd to ac-'cept my brother's propoſal, I will not diſſuade you 'from it; I ſhall always retain the utmoſt affecti-'on for you, and gratitude for the ſervices you 'have done me; and doubt not but my brother 'will have a juſt eſteem for you; go then, and 'may that ſucceſs attend you, which I dare ſay you 'will always merit.

Frederick's inclinations agreed ſo well with captain Johnſon's opinion, that not much time was ſpent in coming to a determination. Every thing was ſettled for his departure, and after taking a moſt tender leave of captain Johnſon and the ladies,

(who

(who cou'd not reſtrain their tears at the time of parting) he ſet out for London, where he was moſt kindly receiv'd by colonel Johnſon, and by him conducted to that ſcene of life, which he had long in ſecret admir'd.

As there is a natural propenſity in the human mind, to put a better gloſs on our own actions, than they deſerve, ſo there is a ſpirit of malice, which takes delight in decrying the actions of others: colonel Johnſon cou'd not help applauding himſelf for the ſervice he intended to be of to Frederick, and there were thoſe, who freely thought this inſtance of the colonel's friendſhip, proceeded from ſelf-intereſted motives. I can't help thinking this cenſure unjuſt, for tho' colonel Johnſon was frequently accuſed of inſincerity, yet it was a conſtitutional fault, common to people of a thoughtleſs diſpoſition; every body gave him the character of good nature, but when this amiable quality is guided merely by chance, it ceaſes to be a virtue.

His behaviour to Frederick was perfectly friendly; he immediately examin'd him on thoſe particulars, in which it was neceſſary he ſhou'd have a competent knowledge to qualify him for his new ſituation. As Frederick's ſtudies had lain another way, notwithſtanding his inclination had long tend-to a military life, he found him very deficient in many points; to remedy this, he put him under the tuition of an able maſter, who very ſoon made Frederick perfect in the requiſite accompliſhments. Mean time the colonel manag'd the affair of the exchange; the money was paid, and by virtue of the king's commiſſion and the courteſy of the Engliſh, our hero was yclep'd captain Frederick.

It has already been ſaid, that ambition was the predominant paſſion in Frederick's breaſt: judge then, what his exultation muſt be, when he arriv'd to this honour! never did little maſter put on his firſt coat and breeches, miſs her firſt birth-day ſuit, or lord his firſt ribbon, with greater joy than Frederick did his regimentals! his vanity wou'd not ſuffer him to leave the pier glaſs, till he had view'd himſelf with great attention, and practis'd the different airs of addreſs, &c. &c. very much to his own ſatisfaction.

He had certainly reaſon to be pleas'd with his perſon, ſince, if vanity is ever allowable, it muſt be in thoſe to whom nature has been bountiful; he was now about twenty three, and tho' free from a boyiſh ſoftneſs, yet he had not loſt that delicacy of complexion, which meliorates the manly air; he was of an excellent heighth, perfectly well made; he had an air of grandeur, which commanded reſpect at firſt ſight, yet accompanied with a happy affability, that on the ſhorteſt acquaintance, produc'd admiration and affection.

When he had ſufficiently narciſſus'd himſelf, he went to pay a viſit to his friend the colonel, who did not fail to confirm him in the good opinion he entertain'd of his own appearance. He ſoon initiated him in the manner of living, us'd among thoſe commanders who are free from the incumbrances of families. He carried him to all the places of publick diverſion, and introduced him to all his particular acquaintance, and that with ſuch encomiums, and marks of eſteem, as procur'd him a polite reception from all.

It will be eaſily imagin'd that all theſe occurrences gave infinite ſatisfaction to Frederick; he was juſt of an age to taſte pleaſure in the higheſt perfection; and tho' the freedoms of action and converſation us'd by his brother officers, gave him at firſt ſome little ſhocks, yet cuſtom ſoon reconcil'd him to them, and tho' he did not fall into the greateſt extravagances, yet what he had but lately thought atrocious crimes, crimes, began daily to ſoften to his view.

O virtue! why ſo modeſt, that the ſudden approaches of vice puts the love of thee to flight? why, why, as thou alone canſt make us happy, does not nature imprint the love of thee ſo indelibly on our hearts, that it might withſtand all the attacks of thy foe?

Colonel Johnſon's extraordinary kindneſs to Frederick, occaſion'd a thought to ariſe among thoſe who knew the hiſtory of the latter, which was, that colonel Johnſon had no leſs than paternalties to blind him to Frederick's intereſt; nor did they ſcruple to rally the colonel freely on that account. He was very far from being diſpleas'd with this opinion, but with Frederick the caſe was different; he had not yet dropt the notion that his veins flow'd with noble blood, nor was he willing to give up the thought that he had a legitimate right to it, and that time would diſcover his extraction. The happineſs of his circumſtances, which now ſeem'd firmly eſtabliſh'd, gave him leiſure for curioſity, and he determin'd to advertiſe for his parents. He was a good while deliberating with himſelf, before he came to this reſolution, for while he wiſh'd to know

know his origin, he fear'd it might prove ſuch, as his pride wou'd prompt him to conceal.

His endeavours were fruitleſs, notwithſtanding he took care to acquaint the publick, that he was rather inclined to give aſſiſtance, than receive it: but it produc'd an effect that was very near being attended with fatal conſequences. Colonel Johnſon, on reading the advertiſement, immediately conjectur'd that Frederick deſpis'd the thought of being his ſon, and look'd on his recantation of that title, as the greateſt mark of diſreſpect and ingratitude he cou'd have been guilty of.

He met Frederick a few hours after, and when he approach'd him with his uſual freedom, he drew back with an angry air, 'No, ſir, you are ſetting up 'for a family, above that of a private gentleman; 'nothing leſs than nobility, I ſuppoſe, will gratify your 'ambition! methinks one who has been ſo much 'indebted to the benevolence of one brother, need 'not be aſham'd of the favours confer'd on him by 'the other; but you have taught me experience.' Frederick was quite aſtoniſh'd at this ſpeech; he beg'd the colonel to explain, but he, inſtead of giving him that ſatisfaction, proceeded to invectives ſo bitter, and withal ſo low, that he rous'd Frederick's reſentment; he anſwer'd the colonel's reproaches with ſo much ſpirit that nothing but the coming in of ſome company, cou'd have prevented the demand of ſatisfaction being made by one or other of the gentlemen.

Tho' they parted without coming quite to a rupture, yet they were far from retaining thoſe friendly ſentiments, which they had before entertain'd for each other. When they met, a diſtant bow, was all

all that paſs'd, and when neceſſity oblig'd them to ſpeak, 'twas with that cold politeneſs which plainly indicated that their mutual eſteem was at an end.

This quarrel, and the cauſe of it, were ſoon made publick, for it was one of the colonel's well known faults, to be as eager while his anger laſted, to depreciate thoſe who had offended him, as he was extravagant in praiſing thoſe who pleas'd him. Frederick was often queſtion'd on this ſubject, and the freedom with which he declar'd himſelf, did not fail, on being repeated to the colonel, to irritate him ſtill more, and keep alive that anger, which otherwiſe wou'd have ſoon ſubſided.

Frederick had not occaſion long to lament the loſs of the colonel's acquaintance, as that want was ſpeedily ſupplied by an intimacy which ſeveral officers, and ſome of rank, honour'd him with; but he who chiefly patroniz'd him, was captain Wilton; a man of very great abilities, of a good family, and and born to a conſiderable fortune; which laſt, he had pretty well ſcatter'd before he went into the army: with the advantage of an agreeable perſon, and an engaging manner of behaviour, he was capable of doing and ſaying many very free things, which wou'd have been liable to much more cenſure, if done by one leſs indebted to nature. Frederick's acquaintance with this gentleman improv'd his underſtanding in the way of the world, more in three months time, than all Mr. Goodman's labours had done in thirteen years: health, youth, gaiety and affluence, all contributed now to render Frederick happy; only love was wanting to compleat his joy; and as he was rather backward in ſeeking an object worthy to inſlave him, Mrs. Fortune thought proper to anticipate his wiſhes. One morning, as he

was at breakfaſt, with only captain Wilton with him (who was frequently his morning viſitor) a chairman enquir'd for him, and inſiſted on delivering a letter he had brought, to captain Frederick himſelf. On being admitted up ſtairs Frederick ask'd who he came from? he anſwer'd, he ſuppos'd that wou'd tell, giving a billet ſeal'd with a lady's arms, and then retir'd to wait for an anſwer. Frederick, impatiently broke the ſeal, and found, written in a very fine hand, the following words:

Sir,

MY rank and fortune, both licence and condemn my freedom; but as I hope to prove myſelf excuſable, I flatter myſelf with the pleaſing thoughts, that you will think me ſo. I have a favour to aſk, and I beg you will be ſincere, and give me an immediate anſwer to this plain queſtion; Is your heart free, or no? you may be ſure I have a reaſon to give for this requeſt, which when anſwer'd may produce another trouble of this ſort, from ſir,

Yours, &c. &c.

P. S. *The bearer has orders to bring an anſwer, there requires no ſuperſcription.*

This unexpected and uncommon epiſtle, occaſion'd emotions in Frederick, too viſible to paſs unnotic'd by captain Wilton, and as Frederick ſeem'd loſt in thought, he awaken'd him with, 'You 'ſeem ſurpris'd, no bad news I hope?' 'No, ſir, but 'the moſt extraordinary affair I ever met with, pray 'read that, and tell me what I am to do.' Captain Wilton took the letter, read it attentively, examin'd the

the ſeal, and return'd it with, 'You're a lucky 'fellow, egad, this is ſome dowager of diſtinction; 'here I have paſt my life in running after the wo- 'men, you who are but juſt come into the world, 'have 'em running after you, but it muſt be allow'd 'you're a handſome dog.' 'Dear ſir, a truce with 'your mirth, I am really perplex'd, what anſwer 'muſt I return?' 'Are you at a loſs for that? re- 'plied Wilton, methinks there needs not a mo- 'ment's conſideration; undoubtedly this fair lady has 'a tendre for you, but too much delicacy to declare 'it, till ſhe knows whether you can with honour 'return it; now I think there is no occaſion to he- 'ſitate at all about an anſwer to her queſtion, you 'muſt aſſure her, you are at preſent at liberty, but 'ready to become her captive, for it wou'd be mon- 'ſtrous to refuſe an overture of this kind, tho' you 'had fifty engagements on your hands.'

Frederick attended to captain Wilton's advice, then burſting into a loud laugh, 'And ſo you are 'quite ſerious? for my part I can't flatter myſelf 'that it is ſo? but however, I'll anſwer it with ſin- 'cerity, let the event be what it will.' He then wrote this anſwer.

Madam,

THO' I can't pretend to gueſs the reaſon of your re- queſt, yet I think it my duty to obey a lady's commands immediately, and without any circumlocution aſſure you, that my heart is at preſent perfectly free, tho' I cannot tell how long it may remain ſo, as it ſeems to give me notice of it's intended flight, and whiſpers me, that it longs to offer itſelf to my fair correſpondent. You hint, madam, that I may flatter myſelf with the hopes of a farther favour from you, I ſhall wait

with the utmoſt impatience for the fulfilling of your promiſe, and am, madam,

Your moſt obedient,

Humble ſervant,

FREDERICK.

Conſidering this was Frederick's firſt eſſay in this kind of writing, it muſt be allow'd he ſucceeded pretty well, nay ſome perhaps will think him too perfect in the art of diſſimulation; but to this muſt be pleaded, that the higher ſtudies he had been ingag'd in ſince his reſidence in London, might reaſonably be ſuppos'd to have enliven'd his manners, and wip'd off ſome of that learned duſt, in which he was before abſorb'd.

When he had finiſh'd, he deſir'd captain Wilton's opinion, who declar'd it compleat; 'twas then ſeal'd and given to the chairman, who had waited ſomewhat impatiently; and had complain'd to Frederick's ſervant, that his lady wou'd be angry with him for ſtaying, and think he had told from whom he came, tho' ſhe had charg'd him not; that he wou'dn't diſoblige her, for ever ſo much, that ſhe was one of the beſt ladies in England, ay, and one of the handſomeſt too, and had a great eſtate, and all in her own power.

The ſimper which ſat on the fellow's countenance, when he attended Frederick, after the chairman was gone, excited his curioſity to know what diverted him, which after ſome awkward excuſes, he told, and I believe it will readily be conjectur'd that the maſter

maſter was not leſs pleas'd than the man; tho' this muſt be added, that the impatience he had feign'd in his letter, now became real, which was increas'd by captain Wilton's giving him ſeveral inſtances of women of diſtinction proceeding in this manner, and before the converſation ended, Frederick, was induc'd to think his unknown inamorato, was a counteſs at leaſt.

Three whole days paſs'd ere he receiv'd any farther intelligence; and ten thouſand different ideas fill'd his breaſt in that time; in the park, he look'd at every woman with attention, at the play, his eye ran from box to box, endeavouring to diſcover by inſtinct, his charming obſcure; but the fourth morning brought a ray of light to chear his almoſt deſponding heart. The faithful meſſenger of love, appear'd and gave him the following epiſtle.

THE ready ſubmiſſion you ſhew, might occaſion a doubt of your ſincerity, if I were inclin'd to doubt; but as it is pleaſing to be agreeably deceiv'd, I am willing to remain a little longer in my error; at leaſt till you have ſeen me, which it will be your own fault if you do not, tomorrow about ten near the parade, (for I'll engage you on your own ground) my ſignal ſhall be, the dropping a handkerchief, and by your manner of returning it, I ſhall gueſs your opinion of, ſir,

Yours, &c. &c.

Frederick was highly ſatisfied with this billet, and thought the time between the receipt of it, and the aſſignation the moſt tedious he ever paſt. He was at the appointed place, before the time, and as there were not many ladies walking, he hop'd to diſcover

more eaſily the perſon he ſought for. Several paſt him, whom he follow'd with his eye till quite out of ſight, in expectation of ſeeing the handkerchief dropt: at laſt, two ladies, ſeemingly deeply engag'd in diſcourſe, paſt ſlowly by him, and were but a few ſteps from him, when one, with the moſt careleſs air imaginble, dropt a handkerchief. Frederick flew to pick it up, and gave it the lady with a courtly low bow, which he had been practiſing all the preceding day. The lady receiv'd it, with a downcaſt bluſhing look, and a low curtſy, and was walking on, when Frederick recollected that he did not come there only to ſave her the trouble of ſtooping. He follow'd her and after a hem or two, addreſs'd her in the true Engliſh ſtile, with an obſervation on the weather, which being very civilly anſwer'd, 'I wiſh, madam, ſaid he, you would permit 'me to attend you, and have the honour of guard-'ing you in your walk.' 'I am oblig'd to you for 'your offer, ſir, return'd the lady, but I don't ap-'prehend any danger to make a guard neceſſary, 'nay perhaps that very guard may be the greateſt I 'have to fear.' 'I am a ſoldier, madam, and I hope 'you don't diſpute my courage or honour?' 'But 'ſir, I doubt your fidelity.' 'Not with juſtice, 'madam, I am one of the moſt faithful creatures 'breathing.' 'O ſir, replied ſhe, this is the com-'mon cant of thoſe who want employment, young 'warriors, before they get commiſſions, are ſupe-'rior to all the heroes of antiquity, but there's but 'ſmall dependance to be plac'd on their profeſſions.' 'But, madam, I have my commiſſion here (pull-ing out the laſt letter he receiv'd and kiſſing it, with 'an air of profound reſpect) and am determin'd by 'my future conduct, to ſhew that I am not unwor-'the honour it confers upon me.' 'Well, ſir, you 'may deſerve it; I'll not ſuppoſe you'll act like a

'common

'common deſerter; but there are men, and thoſe 'who pretend to honour, who fling up or ſell their 'commiſſions, and thus diſhonourably cheat their 'king and country of their ſervice.' 'There have 'been ſuch, madam, but I prize mine (again kiſſing 'the letter) at two juſt a rate to do that; no my 'honour is engag'd, nay farther, my happineſs and 'my life, and theſe muſt go together.'

Here the lady remain'd ſilent, and Frederick allow'd himſelf a breathing time; after which, 'Madam, ſaid he, to lay aſide metaphor, which I can 'no longer keep up, I muſt tell you, that your 'charms have produc'd the very effect, which I 'expected from the time of my receiving your firſt 'letter; in ſhort, I am ready to become your cap'tive, if you will but allow me the honour of wear'ing your chains; nay more, if you will not con'deſcend to have the empire of my heart, I'll be 'your voluntary ſlave; I muſt, I will adore you.' 'So haſty, ſir, return'd the lady, take care that you 'are ſincere; our acquaintance, at leaſt yours with 'me, is too ſhort to admit of ſuch profeſſions.' 'I 'hope, madam, you will permit it to be improv'd, 'and give me leave by the help of time to convince 'you of that ſincerity you ſeem to doubt.' 'Time, 'ſir, may be your friend, in the mean while, don't 'give me cauſe to queſtion your diſcretion.' 'On 'that, madam, you may depend.' Here the other lady, who had been ſilent before, join'd in the converſation, and artfully turn'd the diſcourſe on different ſubjects, till they came to St. James's, when with a low curtſy, and bidding him a good day, ſhe ſaid to her friend (Frederick's charmer) 'Come, 'madam, I inſiſt on your breakfaſting in Bury ſtreet 'with me, Mr. Warner expects you, and tho' you 'wou'd refuſe me, you muſt not my huſband.'

This,

This, tho' ſaid after they had left Frederick, yet was loud enough for him to hear very word diſtinctly, and was an excellent clue to lead him to his Roſamond, whom indeed he was curious to be better acquainted with.

Indeed the lady's perſonal charms were ſufficient to excite his curioſity, excluſive of the notion he entertain'd (from his footman's report, and her own letter) of her rank and fortune, and that vanity which her ſuppos'd admiration of him had heighten'd in his breaſt, young, free from impreſſion, and ready to receive the firſt that offer'd: ſhe was tall, and excellently ſhap'd; had a ſet of very fine features, and a beautiful complexion, which were all enliven'd with an agreeable vivacity and natural gentility. Frederick was ſo much taken with her, that he ardently wiſh'd to ſee her again, and the next morning determin'd to go in ſearch of her: he eaſily found Mrs. Warner, who receiv'd him with great politeneſs, and let him ſee by the genteel freedom of her behaviour, that ſhe was not one of thoſe who require a great deal of time to make an acquaintance with thoſe whom they chuſe to know. Frederick very ſoon found an opportunity of enquiring after the lady, and in terms expreſſive of the utmoſt admiration and reſpect. Mrs. Warner paus'd a little, then anſwer'd with, 'I dare ſay you think 'her a mad creature, but youth, health and a large 'jointure give a handſome widow a right to do 'what ſhe pleaſes. Here Frederick interrupted her, with pleading the right which every lady ought to have (a right which moſt men are willing to allow the ſex, till they have 'em in their power) to follow her own inclinations, and then return'd to the topic of his eſteem for her. 'Sir, return'd Mrs. 'Warner, you are a ſtranger to me, Mrs. Brode-

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'rick is my particular friend, the queſtions you 'are aſking and the manner you aſk them in, makes 'it neceſſary for me to enquire more ſtrictly into 'your ſentiments, before I anſwer you; you are 'much miſtaken if you think her one of thoſe ſim-'ple women, who liſten with pleaſure to every idle 'tale a pretty fellow tells; ſhe is a woman of ſtrict 'honour, and has ſo nice a regard for her reputation, 'that your pretenſions muſt be very well founded, 'if you expect her to regard 'em.'

After what had paſt, I believe the reader will think it was requiſite for Mrs. Warner to give her friend this character, as Frederick might otherwiſe have ſuſpected it, but now he cou'd not, for one woman may always be believ'd, if ſhe ſpeaks well of another. Frederick, a little confounded at Mrs. Warner's ſerious reply, at length ſufficiently recover'd himſelf to aſſure her, that he was far from entertaining any thoughts of Mrs. Broderick, but what were conſiſtent with the ſtricteſt honour; that he really admir'd her exceſſively, and as he flatter'd himſelf that he was not totally diſagreeable to her, he long'd moſt ardently to ſee her, and to aſſure her of the reality of his eſteem. Mrs. Warner abated a little of the ſeverity of aſpect ſhe had aſſum'd, and condeſcended to inform him, that her friend was a lady of good family and fortune, had been married very young, (to gratify the avarice of her parents) to a very rich old gentleman, who at his death left her miſtreſs of a very great eſtate in Wales; that having an averſion to pomp and ceremony, ſhe had ſtole up to town incog. bringing only one ſervant with her and contenting herſelf with a ready furniſh'd lodging, and a hackney chair; and concluded with telling him, that ſhe was to ſup with her that very night, and if he was not better engag'd, his com-

pany

pany wou'd be acceptable. Frederick did not want the invitation to be repeated, and after apologizing to Mrs. Warner for the trouble of his viſit, he took his leave, in order to put off an appointment he had made with captain Wilton, that he might be at liberty to wait on his charmer.

As captain Wilton had been witneſs of the firſt advances Mrs. Broderick had made, Frederick had not diſcretion enough to conceal what had follow'd, but inform'd him of every tittle of Mrs. Warner's information, on which Wilton pour'd ſuch a volley of admirations, encouragements, and congratulations, as put Frederick in high ſpirits, and made him almoſt think he was already poſſeſs'd of the beauteous dame and her large fortune.

He was punctual to the time Mrs. Warner told him ſhe ſhould expect him at, and was with her a few moments before the widow; what a palpitation did the loud rap of her noiſy chairman occaſion! however, he was not ſo wholly loſt, but he flew down ſtairs to hand her up, and had the pleaſure to perceive that her emotion equall'd his; both of 'em paid the uſual compliments, but in both, that grace was wanting which us'd to accompany their words. A third perſon is very neceſſary in the introductory converſations of lovers, ſince no two perſons can look, or behave more fooliſhly than they uſually do. Mrs. Warner had a good deal of wit, and was perfectly miſtreſs of the converſation ſpirit; ſo that with her enquiries of Mrs. Broderick's health, &c. littles pieces of news and adventures which ſhe related, ſhe gave the lovers time to recover from thoſe alarms the meeting had given 'em. After ſome diſcourſe of this kind, ſhe made an apology that ſhe was oblig'd to leave them for a few minutes, and again put Frederick

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to the expence of looking ſilly. He was not ſuch a novice in love matters, but that he knew he ought to improve the favourable opportunity; yet notwithſtanding his intentions, he might, for aught I know, have remain'd ſilent till now, if Mrs. Broderick had not ſeen and pitied his confuſion, and began thus; 'If ſome people were to know the particulars of our acquaintance, Mr. Frederick, they 'wou'd give riſe to ſtrange reports; it is not uſual 'for people of my rank to behave as I have done; 'I'm afraid my conduct, wou'd require an apology, 'and I think, ſir, you are blameable, in having ta'ken the advantage of my friend's indiſcretion to 'diſcover me; you might have ſtaid till I had given 'you leave to enquire after me.' 'Cou'd you ex'pect, madam, that I wou'd wait till then? you 'muſt have a very mean opinion of your own 'charms, or have thought me the moſt inſenſible 'of mortals, if I had. I hope I have not offended 'you; if I have, love is the offender; you firſt in'ſpir'd it, and ſure you will pardon what that has 'caus'd; for tho' I know it is the height of preſump'tion, yet I cannot help telling you that I adore 'you.' Here he paus'd, Mrs. Broderick look'd confus'd; play'd with her fan, began a ſigh, fetch'd half a hem, and ended with a cough. Frederick proceeded; 'I know, madam, the difference in 'our ſituation to be ſuch as caſts me far behind the 'leaſt glimmering of hope, but yet I wou'd fain 'purſue it: 'tis true I can boaſt no family, I have 'no fortune, but if faith, truth and tenderneſs, can 'plead any thing in lieu of theſe deficiencies, and 'can intitle me to the leaſt return, I will venture 'to aſſert that no man has a better right to pretend 'to it, than myſelf.' Mrs. Broderick thought proper to anſwer him with, 'What I have already 'done, ſir, will eaſily plead an excuſe for what you

'have

have done and ſaid, 'tis dangerous for a woman of
' my youth and fortune to be miſtreſs of her acti-
' ons. I have been indiſcreet, we muſt mutually
' forgive each other, your diſcretion is my only de-
' pendance.' Here Mrs. Warner enter'd and put an end to any farther particular converſation; the evening, however, paſs'd agreeably, and before they parted, Mrs. Broderick gave captain Frederick and Mrs. Warner, an invitation to drink tea the next evening at her lodgings. The reader will eaſily ſuppoſe Frederick did not forget the time, but he might not pre-ſuppoſe, that an unlucky accident prevented Mrs. Warner's enjoying the pleaſure of waiting on her friend, poor woman, ſhe was oblig'd to ſend an excuſe, and that ſo late, that Mrs. Broderick cou'd not ſend in time to Frederick to defer his viſit; he made it, and made ſo good an advantage of it, that he obtain'd permiſſion to viſit the lovely widow as often as he pleas'd.

It wou'd be tedious to repeat their diſcourſes, and as I chuſe to imagine that every reader has at ſome time or other been acquainted with love, I ſhall leave every one to conjecture what they think proper on the occaſion, and ſhall only ſay, that marriage was at length brought on the tapis, and the preliminaries adjuſted to the ſatisfaction of both parties.

While this was in agitation, an adventure fell out, which employ'd Frederick's thoughts a good deal; he accidentally met Mrs. Scott, the quondam favourite of colonel Johnſon; ſhe had, in the ſhort acquaintance ſhe had heretofore had with Frederick, diſcover'd a great portion of kindneſs for him; therefore it will not be wonder'd at that ſhe expreſs'd it at their meeting, gave him a direction to her lodgings,

ings, and invited him to viſit her. One evening, being diſengag'd, he thought it no infidelity to his Welſh princeſs, to viſit an old acquaintance. Mrs. Scott receiv'd him kindly, and as his quarrel with colonel Johnſon was too publick to have eſcap'd her knowledge, ſhe very ſoon made that the ſubject of her diſcourſe; in this ſhe had two views, firſt to ingratiate herſelf in Frederick's favour, and ſecondly to gratify her own malice in ſpeaking ill of a man who long had been her dupe.

After expoſing all his foibles, ſhe acquainted Frederick with an excellent inſtrument of revenge in her poſſeſſion, which ſhe threaten'd making uſe of, thinking this wou'd pleaſe Frederick as much as herſelf; this was no other, than a bond for two thouſand pounds, which the colonel, in the exceſs of his love, had given her. As he had no thoughts of parting with her but with life, and had too great a diſtaſte to marriage, to think of giving her a title to a legal proviſion, he had intended this as a ſupport for her, in caſe of his death. She wou'd undoubtedly have ſued him for the payment before, had ſhe not known ſhe was liable to proſecution, for ſome little freedoms ſhe had taken in removing rather more than belong'd to her, when ſhe left him, but his having been ſo long ſilent, and ſomething ſhe had heard of his having been advis'd to give it up, gave her courage to execute her project.

Frederick gave into her ſcheme, and ſaid not the leaſt word to diſſuade her from it, but after he left her, he cou'd not help thinking ſeriouſly on it; he was perfectly acquainted with colonel Johnſon's circumſtances, and knew that this muſt utterly ruin him; he cou'd not ſee ſuch a danger threaten a perſon he had once eſteem'd, without ſome con-

cern, and the more he reflected on it, the more he found himself affected, and at last he determin'd, if possible, to prevent the impending evil.

It was very difficult for him to know how to act to serve the colonel; but next morning he accidentally met a gentleman who belong'd to the law, with whom he was acquainted; he told him the whole affair, and desired his advice; after some consultation, they agreed, that the only way to save the colonel, was to get the bond from her, yet if this was done in a clandestine manner, it might subject the doer to a prosecution from her: at last they concluded to frighten her into a restitution, which the lawyer undertook to do.

When they had compleated their scheme, and the plot was thought sufficiently ripen'd, Frederick paid her a second visit, when she inform'd him, that as soon as Johnson came to town, she intended to have him arrested, that she had been with a counsellor, who had examin'd the bond, and had declar'd it sufficiently valid: she was exulting in the expected pleasure of gratifying her revenge and avarice together, when she was told a person below had a letter to deliver to her, which she order'd to be sent up; after begging Frederick's permission, she broke the seal, but had not read two lines before she chang'd colour; and did not finish it, before she pronounc'd with a violent scream, that she was ruin'd. Frederick endeavour'd to assuage her grief, and begg'd to know the cause, which she cou'd not tell him, but giving him the letter said that wou'd tell him, the villain was too quick for her. Frederick, very gravely took it, and read what follows.

Madam,

Madam,

BEING employ'd by colonel Johnſon, to commence a proſecution againſt you for a robbery of plate, linen, money and bills, which he charges you with, and which he can bring ſufficient evidences to prove, I cou'd not out of humanity forbear giving you this notice, that if you can find any means of compromiſing with him, you may in time make uſe of them, as you muſt not flatter yourſelf with the hope of eſcaping juſtice, whoſe moſt favourable ſentence will be tranſportation for life, it being extreme lenity if you are not convicted capitally. No time is to be loſt.

Frederick affected ſo natural a ſurpriſe at reading this dreadful epiſtle, that he gave Mrs. Scott time to recover from her firſt flow of amazement, when beholding the conſternation in which he appear'd, it again awaken'd and impreſs'd the ſenſe ſhe had of her danger; and ſhe eagerly cried out, O Mr. Frederick, what ſhall I do? tell me how I may eſcape? ſave me from this calamity, and I'll bleſs you as long as I live; here burſting into a violent fit of tears, ſhe fell on her knees at his feet. He rais'd her up; and notwithſtanding he was the author of this ſcene of tragedy, he cou'd not help being affected; however, he had caution enough to perform the part he had allotted himſelf, as he intended. 'It 'is indeed, ſaid he, a terrible affair; to die in an 'ignominious manner, makes death doubly horri'ble: and the thoughts of being for ever exil'd, 'condemn'd to the hardeſt labour, and that under 'the direction of the moſt inhuman wretches 'breathing, is more ſhocking than death itſelf. A'las, when firſt I knew you, little did I think either 'of theſe wretch'd alternatives wou'd be your fate! 'why, why was you ſo overcome by folly, as to 'leave the colonel and that in the manner you did?'

'Oh! ſir, return'd ſhe, aſk me not why I did it, I 'was bewitch'd, but tell me how I may eſcape his 'juſt reſentment?' Frederick anſwer'd, that ſhe cou'd not have liv'd ſo long with him, but ſhe muſt know his temper; that he believ'd him generous and good-natur'd, that if ſhe could think of any thing that wou'd touch either, 'twas the only method ſhe had to take. 'I know not how, ſaid ſhe, 'but tell me any thing, and I will do it.' Frederick wou'd willingly have had her propoſe the returning the bond, but as he found ſhe did not think of it, he thought it was time to put it in her head; after pauſing ſome time, 'I know not, ſaid he, 'what to adviſe you to;------ ſuppoſe you was to 'ſend him his bond, you wou'd by ſo doing, con-'vince him that you are not ungenerous, and not-'thing begets generoſity ſo ſoon as its likeneſs.' 'What, ſaid ſhe, wou'd you adviſe me to give up 'all the power I have over him, and all the depend-'ance I have myſelf?' 'Nay, Madam, return'd 'Frederick, if you prefer avarice, and unjuſt re-'venge to your life, you are in the right to purſue 'it; the affair is nothing to me, but perhaps when 'tis too late, you may be ſorry you did not follow 'my advice.' The thoughts of death, again re-'new'd her terrors;' 'Well, ſir, I will, I will do 'what you think proper, but who ſhall I get to 'reſtore it to him, and ſpeak in my favour? who 'can I depend upon?' 'It is a taſk I by no 'means chuſe, replied Frederick; colonel Johnſon 'and I, have been too long enemies for me to de-'ſire to ſee him on ſuch an errand, yet if you can 'think of no body elſe, I will, to ſerve you, un-'dertake it, and will do all in my power to ſave 'you.' 'You are very kind, ſir, for indeed I know 'no body elſe, to whom I cou'd apply: but ſup-poſe, when he has got the bond, he ſhou'd conti-

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'nue the profecution?' It wou'd be improper for 'you to pretend to condition with him, return'd 'Frederick, but I give you my honour, that I will 'either bring you an indemnification under his hand, 'or your bond again.' This aſſurance prevail'd, and ſhe immediately went to her eſcrutore, took out the bond, and gave it to Frederick, telling him, that ſhe had now put her life and fortune in his hands: the joy with which he receiv'd it, could hardly be conceal'd, and he haſtily took his leave, that ſhe might not diſcover it. As he went home, he cou'd not help reflecting ſeriouſly on the character of this woman; how tenderly, ſaid he to himſelf, did the colonel behave to her, how long ſhe liv'd with him! his fortune, his houſe and equipage, were not ſo much his own, as they were hers! nay, he even permitted her the uſe of his name, and ſhe, after all to prove ſuch a traitreſs! well, however rakes may ridicule marriage, ſurely the keeper, is by far the moſt ridiculous perſon: the one conſults his happineſs, his honour and that of his family; while the other is not only a ſlave to his paſſions, but the dupe of a baſe woman, who generally, ſooner or later, makes him repent of his folly. Surely no being is ſo deteſtable as a bad woman! I have hitherto eſcap'd their lures, and marriage and my dear Mrs. Broderick's charms and virtues, will defend me, and ſecure me from the wiles of the whole ſex beſides. With theſe thoughts he arriv'd at his own lodging, and immediately diſpatch'd his footman to enquire when colonel Johnſon was expected in town, and had the ſatisfaction to find, that he was juſt arriv'd; he therefore determin'd to wait on him the next morning. He did ſo, and luckily met with him at home; the colonel was ſurpris'd when he ſent up his name, and on his walking up, he met him with a ſtiff air,

ſaying. 'This is a favour, Mr. Frederick, I cou'd 'not have flatter'd myſelf with; pray let me know 'to what happy occaſion it is owing?' 'It is a 'happy one, replied Frederick, ſince I have it in 'my power to convince you, that I am not the 'ungrateful wretch you took me for, but am glad 'to catch at any opportunity to ſerve a family to 'whom I am proud to own my obligations. You 'may perhaps ſir, remember a bond you gave 'Mrs. Scott, which, as there is no time fix'd for 'the payment, ſhe is at liberty to demand whene-'ver ſhe pleaſes.' 'How, ſir, return'd the colonel, 'does ſhe threaten me with an execution?' 'It 'was more than a threat, replied Frederick, but 'I thought proper to make you threaten her with 'a proſecution; by which means I have gain'd your 'bond, which however I ſhall not give you, 'till 'you have ſign'd her pardon." Colonel Johnſon was quite amaz'd, and Frederick, to diſpel the conſternation which ſat on his features, related to him the whole adventure, ending it with theſe words; 'Here, ſir, is your bond, but I hope you will 'ſecure my honour, and leave the wretch to the tor-'tures of her own conſcience, which I am much 'miſtaken or they will be a ſufficient puniſhment; 'but this you muſt aſſure her of, under your hand.' The colonel, who had liſten'd very attentively while Frederick was ſpeaking, aroſe and embrac'd him with great ardor; 'Spite of your pride, ſaid he, 'you are my dear boy; you have ſav'd me from 'deſtruction, and I muſt love you as long as I live; 'do but forgive my paſt heat, and you will make 'me happy; indeed I did not deſerve this kind-'neſs.' Frederick begg'd he wou'd not mention what was paſt, and return'd his embraces with real affection, and a moſt ſincere reconciliation enſued. The colonel took his bond, tore it, and flung it in

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the fire, and afterwards wrote a note by Frederick's direction to Mrs. Scott. Before they parted, colonel Johnſon made Frederick promiſe him the ſame ſhare of his acquaintance that he had before their quarrel, and they parted with mutual profeſſions and good wiſhes to each other. Frederick then went to Mrs. Scott, and related the ſucceſs of his mediation, and gave her the colonel's billet, accompanying the delivery of it with ſome very ſalutary advice, which he found her in a fit diſpoſition to receive; ſhe had indeed new cauſe for mortification; her ill-gotten wealth was pretty well diſſipated, and her yōung gallant, on her relating the misfortune which threaten'd her, thought proper to ſecure himſelf from ſharing her danger, made a partition of effects, and had taken his leave of her. Frederick ſaw ſo many ſigns of true penitence, that he determin'd to ſerve her in reality: and actually did, ſome time after, perſuade colonel Johnſon to ſettle an annuity of thirty pounds a Year on her, on condition ſhe left London, and the ſtate of infamy ſhe had long been in, which conditions, ill health, poverty and contempt, made her gladly accept, nor did ſhe ever break them.

Theſe tranſactions, tho' they took up a good deal of Frederick's time and thoughts, did not interrupt his amour with his fair widow, by whom he was moſt graciouſly treated, and for whom he felt all the tranſports of genuine love. He was her conſtant viſiter, was often permitted to entertain her for whole hours, and frequently preſs'd her to favour him with her company to the faſhionable places of publick diverſion; but theſe invitations ſhe conſtantly declin'd, urging her general acquaintance with people of diſtinction, who, if they ſhou'd once know ſhe was in town, wou'd not allow her a moment's reſpite.

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In ſhort nothing was wanting to compleat his happineſs, but the tying the indiſſoluble knot.

The happy day was fix'd and now approaching, when he thought proper to acquaint colonel Johnſon with his good fortune. He was ſurpris'd and rejoic'd at it, and inſiſted, if he was not already provided with a perſon to act as father at the awful ceremony, that he might have the honour of giving the lady's hand where her heart was already given. Frederick cou'd not deny this requeſt, any more than he cou'd another, in which he was equally importunate, which was to introduce him to her that very evening; he having learnt he was engag'd to drink tea with her.

This was a freedom Frederick had never taken; 'tis true, it proceeded more from the mean opinion he had of the generality of his acquaintance, than fear of offending: Captain Wilton, who was his chief intimate he thought too boiſterous, and free in his expreſſions, to pleaſe a lady of Mrs. Broderick's delicacy and nice diſcernment; however he cou'd not refuſe the colonel's importunity, and even, without any previous meſſage conſented to his accompanying him.

Colonel Johnſon, who intended to do honour to his friend, approach'd the lady with profound reſpect; then ſuddenly ſtarting back, 'How the duce! 'Kitty Martin! why are you the Welſh lady with 'the vaſt fortune?' Frederick was aſtoniſh'd and bit his lips with very vexation at the colonel's behaviour; the lady was quite confounded, and colonel Johnſon proceeded; 'Really this is a very pretty joke, 'pray did you intend to impoſe on me, or yourſelves? 'on me you cou'd not, for you know, Kitty, you

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'and I are old acquaintance.' What, did that dog 'Wilton put you upon this pretty ſcheme? pray, 'madam, explain yourſelf, and beg this gentleman's 'pardon for the injury you intended him; or I'll 'make you repent it ſorely.' I am afraid the colonel will get the imputation of ill-manners, but his affection to Frederick, who ſtill remain'd wrapt up in ſilent amazement, muſt plead his excuſe. As for the lady, no longer Mrs. Broderick, tho' ſhe was an excellent actreſs, yet ſhe had not effrontery enough to deny the colonel's charges, but immediately acknowledg'd, that captain Wilton, wanting to get rid of her, had put her upon endeavouring to draw Frederick in to marry her, and had conſerted the whole plot, and inſtructed her how to behave, but begg'd they wou'd not let Wilton know that ſhe had diſcover'd him, for that ſhe fear'd he wou'd murder her, if they did.

Ah, poor Frederick! how did'ſt thou look when all thy golden proſpects vaniſh'd! when thy lovely, virtuous widow prov'd a caſt miſtreſs! and all her love affectation! rage took place of all thoſe tender paſſions, which a few moments before fill'd his breaſt, and when he cou'd ſpeak it was to utter execrations; and denounce vengeance againſt captain Wilton; nor did miſs Martin eſcape her ſhare, for with Mrs. Broderick and the vaſt fortune, all the charms he had admir'd vaniſh'd.

The lady, who had little expected this ſudden turn, was heartily terrified at Frederick's menaces, and endeavour'd to ſooth his rage, but to no purpoſe; ſhe pleaded her unhappy circumſtances, which forc'd her to comply with this ſcheme; aſſur'd him, that ſhe had frequently repented her ſhare in it, and, affected by his generous behaviour, had often been

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on the brink of diſcovering the whole to him; that ſhe had determin'd, if the marriage had come to a concluſion, to have made one of the beſt of wives, and by her future conduct, redeem'd her paſt errors. All this, and much more, was loſt upon Frederick, who was ſullenly meditating revenge, and tho' he ſpoke not, his looks carried more terror in them, than words cou'd. As for the colonel, his heart not being ſo deeply engag'd, he endulg'd himſelf in the free uſe of ſpeech; ſometimes in comforting Frederick, then in accuſing the fair Syren and her employer, till ſeeing Frederick put on a new air of fury, he thought proper to perſuade him to leave the lady, as the ſight of her, did but ſerve to enrage him.

Indeed Frederick had ſufficient cauſe for his anger, he had look'd on captain Wilton, ever ſince the beginning of their acquaintance, as his friend; and for him to lay ſuch a ſnare for him, was intolerable: then the ſtroke it gave his pride, to be thought a fit perſon to be dup'd; theſe, join'd to the diſappointment, were enough to ſhock the temper of one poſſeſs'd of much more fortitude than Frederick was maſter of.

The colonel inſiſted on his going home with him, and it was lucky he was reſolute, as Frederick wou'd elſe, in all probability, have inſtantly ſought for the author of this miſchief; and had he met with him in the humour he was in, the life of one of them, wou'd moſt likely have paid for it.

Colonel Johnſon made uſe of all the rhetorick he was poſſeſs'd of to diſſuade Frederick from his purpoſe; but as he was not bleſs'd with the powers of eloquence, his diſcourſe had but little effect, when the unexpected arrival of a gentleman, dear to both,

put

put an end to their diſpute. It was no other than captain Johnſon, who was juſt come from Glouceſterſhire; and as his brother ſeldom put pen to paper to acquaint him of his welfare, he had come immediately to enquire after it, not expecting to meet with him at home at ſo early an hour. The joys of meeting were ſincere on all ſides; but tho' the pleaſure of embracing his dear friend, at firſt a little diſpers'd the cloud which hung on Frederick's brow, yet it ſoon return'd, and too viſibly to be unnotic'd by the captain. His friendſhip for Frederick gave him a right to inquire the cauſe, which Frederick wou'd have conceal'd, but the colonel, who thought his brother wou'd have more influence over him, told the ſtory of Frederick's amour. The captain cou'd not help ſmiling at the relation, but immediately recover'd his uſual gravity; 'My dear Frederick, ſaid 'he, there is nothing in all this worth your anger; 'Wilton, tho' above you in ſtation, yet is beneath 'your reſentment; theſe are tricks often put on 'young fellows, and you are not to think the worſe 'of yourſelf, becauſe it has happen'd to you; you 'have been happily preſerv'd from the effects which 'the continuance of the deception wou'd have occaſion'd, and the moſt prudent ſtep you can take, 'is to take no notice of it: to do it without calling 'him to account, wou'd expoſe you to endleſs ridicule, and, believe me, no affront can be given, 'ſufficient to excuſe premeditated murder, which 'the duelliſt, is more highly culpable of, than any 'other murderer, notwithſtanding thoſe laws, that 'phantom call'd honour, has made in his favour. 'Reſtrain your impetuoſity, and ſave your ſword, 'for ſome more worthy cauſe. Beſides, you are 'to conſider the riſk you wou'd run, and that particular clauſe in the articles of war, which you 'have ſworn to obſerve, againſt duelling; a prac-

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'tice repugnant to the laws both of heaven and 'earth, and unknown amongſt barbarians. Let me 'intreat you then, to lay aſide all thoughts of re-'venge, ſince to forgive an intended injury is far 'nobler than to reſent it.

Frederick had liſten'd with more patience than cou'd have been expected, and after captain Johnſon had done ſpeaking, he ſat ſome minutes ſilent, revolving his advice, at laſt he ſaid, 'So, ſir, you'd have 'me ſit tamely contented, and like a poor ſpiritleſs 'wretch ſeem pleas'd with the trick he has play'd 'me!' 'I wou'd not have you do any thing to de-'ſerve that character; you will, I hope, have time 'and opportunity, to convince the world you are 'no coward; but in the preſent caſe, you have no 'cauſe to venture your life to do that; nor will it, 'even to yourſelf, juſtify your endeavouring to 'take away another's. Believe me, Frederick, 'the perſons whoſe cenſure you chiefly fear, are by 'no means proper judges of the denominations of 'courage and cowardice; there is a ſtring of cant 'words in uſe, of honour, bravery, &c. which 'they make uſe of for things directly oppoſite to 'their true meaning. No honour can licence the 'deſire of depriving a human being of life, to com-'penſate for a private quarrel, nor does bravery 'conſiſt in taking unwarrantable revenge. Let 'the honour you ſeek, be that of doing your duty 'both as a chriſtian and a ſoldier, for theſe ought 'to be inſeparable; and be brave in defence of your 'country, and the beſt of kings, not in robbing her 'of her children, and him of his ſubjects, to gratify 'your private reſentment.' 'What then, return'd 'Frederick, ſhall that villain continue to glory in 'his ſtratagem, without knowing that I am acquaint-'ed with it?' No, replied the captain, I wou'd

'have

'have you take a paper revenge, and by your calmneſs convince him, that you are above reſenting 'the indignities he has offer'd you; and this to a man 'of his temper (for I know him perfectly well) will 'be a keener revenge than your ſword could take.' Frederick, overcome by the captain's arguments, reſolv'd to follow his advice; and not being willing to delay the pleaſure of acquainting his friend captain Wilton with his new acquir'd knowledge, he inſtantly ſent him the following epiſtle.

To captain Wilton.

Sir,

AS you have been confidant from the beginning of my amour, I can't reſiſt the pleaſure of telling you my ſucceſſes: an unexpected accident has diſcover'd how much I have been indebted to you, and my gratitude for the favour you intended me is ſuch, that I can't delay my acknowledgments for the obligation. As I have laid aſide all thoughts of marriage, and don't think proper, after ſuch a declaration, to viſit any more, a lady of miſs Martin's character, I muſt depend on you to make my compliments to her, and to aſſure her, that I think her the beſt actreſs I ever ſaw; tho' her inimitable perfections are the leſs wonderful, when I conſider that ſhe had the advantage of having ſo excellent a prompter as yourſelf.

I am, ſir,

Yours, &c. &c.

Captain Johnſon perſuaded Frederick that this letter was all the notice he ought to take of captain Wilton's perfidy; and prais'd it ſo much, in which

the colonel join'd, that they brought him into a pretty good humour, and he now found leiſure to enquire after his two friends, the worthy mother, and wife of captain Johnſon. He had the ſatisfaction to hear they were both well, and the additional one, that the younger Mrs. Johnſon was in town. Captain Johnſon inform'd both him and his brother, who were yet ignorant of it, that he had accepted the invitation of Mr. Vincent, an uncle of his wife's, and intended to continue ſome weeks with him. 'Mrs. 'Johnſon, ſaid he, will be very glad to ſee you, and 'as the old gentleman deſires we'll be quite free, I 'invite you both to breakfaſt with us to morrow 'at his houſe; and then, Mr. Frederick, I will intro-'duce you to two of the worthieſt men breathing; 'in the eldeſt, you will find all the virtues of your 'good tutor, Mr. Goodman; and in the nephew, 'every quality you can wiſh in an agreeable friend, 'and I flatter myſelf that I have intereſt enough to 'make him yours.'

The gentlemen agreeing to wait on them, they parted: all very well pleas'd except Frederick, who was ſcarcely ſatisfied with his paper reſentment.

After ſpending the chief part of the ſucceeding night in diſagreeable reflections, he aroſe, tho' little diſpos'd to do ſo, to keep his appointment with captain Johnſon; calling firſt on the colonel, as had been previouſly agreed. They found the family aſſembled ready to receive them: the colonel was acquainted with the two gentlemen, therefore wanted no introduction, and the captain, who wiſh'd to promote an intimacy between them and his friend Frederick, determin'd, if poſſible, to begin it at this their firſt interview: indeed there wanted no perſuaſion to either party, for as I dare ſay, every one has met

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with ſome people, for whom at firſt ſight, they have felt a particular liking, it will appear the leſs remarkable that the two Mr. Vincent's and Frederick, conceiv'd a mutual eſteem at the commencement of their acquaintance. Had this happen'd three days ſooner, when Frederick's heart was elated with gaiety, gallantry, and ſucceſs, the caſe might have been otherwiſe: his free air might have been as little agreeable to them, as the venerable aſpect of the elder, or the ſerious manner of the younger, wou'd have been to him; but he was now in a diſpoſition to be more taken with ſolid ſenſe, than impertinent rattle.

Mrs. Johnſon's appearance amongſt them, occaſion'd a new ſet of compliments to go round; the colonel had not ſeen her ſince her marriage, therefore had his perſonal congratulations to pay; which were received with pleaſure, as ſhe ſtood a very good chance for the Dunmow Donation; not having yet diſcover'd, either by words, looks or behaviour, that ſhe repented her nuptial engagements. If ſhe diſcover'd ſatisfaction at the colonel's compliments, it will be imagin'd it was not leſſen'd by Frederick's, as ſhe had a very great eſteem for him: his friendſhip for her huſband wou'd have been a ſufficient inducement to her liking him, had not his own merits been added; but both together gave her ſo high an opinion of him, that next to captain Johnſon ſhe preferr'd him to any body ſhe knew. As every one of the company endeavour'd to give pleaſure to each other, this morning's viſit prov'd a very agreeable one, tho' Frederick cou'd not help now and then heaving a ſigh, when the remembrance of his late diſappointments wou'd intrude; captain Johnſon was the only perſon who took notice of it, and when he was going call'd him aſide, ſaying, 'I find,

'Frederick, your philoſophy is not ſtrong enough to 'conquer your paſſions, but I hope you will not let 'them conquer you; I beg you will let us have 'as much of your time as you can ſpare, we are all 'phyſicians for the mind, and will uſe our beſt me-'thods for your cure." Frederick promis'd to follow his inſtructions, and took his leave.

Notwithſtanding he had determin'd to be guided by his friends advice, in taking no farther notice of captain Wilton, yet it was fortunate for both, that the one went directly out of town, and the other was almoſt conſtantly engaged with his new ſet of acquaintance; for ſpite of reaſon, his reſentments wou'd now and then blaze out, and nothing but Wilton's abſence and Johnſon's arguments, cou'd have deter'd him from giving way to the dictates of revenge.

As parity of ages is generally a great ſtep towards friendſhip, it is natural to ſuppoſe that young Mr. Vincent and Frederick ſhou'd ſingle out each other, as they were the neareſt of an age, and had a ſimilitude of diſpoſition; both had at preſent a grave turn, (for Frederick cou'd not immediately get over his diſappointments) tho' it might be perceiv'd, that both were indued by nature with more gaiety of diſpoſition: Mr. Vincent, conſcious of the alteration grief had made in his, cou'd not help thinking that this gravity, unſuitable to Frederick's years and manner of life, was owing to ſome recent chagrin. He one day took the liberty of queſtioning him concerning it, and Frederick had ſo high an opinion of Mr. Vincent's prudence, that he told him the whole cauſe of his melancholy. When he had ended, 'Alas, ſaid 'Mr. Vincent, your troubles ſhould be counted as

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'trifles unworthy your care; if you lament ſo much 'the loſs of a woman whoſe only merit conſiſts in a 'fine perſon, and for whom your love was at firſt 'only gallantry, and at laſt, perhaps founded more 'on intereſt than any thing elſe; what would you 'do, if you had loſt one, where beauty, virtue, and 'every other perfection center'd, and one who had 'an equal love for you? whereas your lady only 'pretended a regard for you, to draw you into an 'unhappy marriage with her. Your pride, 'tis true, 'is hurt, but had you lov'd as I have done, that 'wou'd be inſignificant. But to convince you how 'trifling all this ought to appear to you, I'll give 'you a relation of my hard fate, which will teach 'you to overlook what you miſtakenly eſteem ſuch."

Frederick thank'd Mr. Vincent for this mark of his eſteem, and told him that nothing but the fear of being thought impertinent had prevented his requeſting this ſatisfaction, ſince from the firſt moment of their acquaintance, he had perceiv'd a depreſſion of ſpirits in him, and felt himſelf ſo far intereſted in his concern, as to wiſh to know the cauſe. Mr. Vincent began thus.

'My misfortunes have a very early date, and tho' my former have but little connection with my latter ones, yet I can't help repeating them, as it gives me an opportunity of remembring my obligations to the beſt of uncles. My father was a man of fortune, and married a woman of ſuitable rank, with whom he liv'd as happily as perſons of faſhion uſually do; their inclinations were the ſame, and from thence proceeded their miſery: a love of expence and play, was predominant in both, and neither of them thought of retrenching, till they were on the brink of ruin, and then they mutually upbraided

braided each other. The ſouth-ſea ſcheme was then in agitation, and my father, induc'd by its fallacious promiſes, and the number of fools who embark'd in it, reſolv'd to venture the remains of his fortune, in order to gain a much larger than he had already ſpent. He was naturally of a lively, enterpriſing genius, and had not the leaſt doubt of ſucceſs in any thing he undertook, till convinc'd by cruel certainty: he had met with diſappointments before, but none ſo great as this; here his whole expectations ſunk, and with them, all the courage and fortitnde he had ever poſſeſs'd; unable to ſupport the thoughts of dependance, he determin'd to put a ſpeedy end to his troubles, regardleſs of what wou'd become of my mother or me. Loſt to hope, overcome by rage and deſpair, he yielded to the inſtigations of his evil genius, and with a piſtol put an end to his life: my mother, who was in the houſe, hearing the report, ran inſtantly into the room, where ſhe beheld my father breathing his laſt; her cries ſoon brought the ſervants to her aſſiſtance, and their clamours alarm'd the neighbours; his death was ſoon made publick, and my mother found that but the beginning of her ſorrows; his debts were large, and his creditors knowing his circumſtances, that they had nothing to hope for from his heirs, ſent an execution into the houſe, and orders to arreſt the corps. Then the manner of his death caus'd new trouble, under which my mother muſt have ſunk, but for the ſpeedy aſſiſtance of my uncle.

He and my father were too oppoſite in their tempers, to have much cordiality for each other, nor had they ſeen each other for ſome time before this fatal cataſtrophe, but he no ſooner heard of it, than he came to offer his aid; he firſt us'd his influence with

with the officers, to behave with moderation, till the matter cou'd be compromis'd, and then the influence and power he had, to procure a favourable ſentence from the coroner, and to have my father's body buried. He took the office of adminiſtrator, calculated my father's debts and effects, and made a ſatisfactory compoſition with the creditors. My mother was ſtill deſtitute, when he made her the offer of living with him, at the ſame time telling her, that he ſhou'd from that inſtant look on me, as his own ſon, and for my ſake was reſolv'd to drop a ſcheme of matrimony, in which he had embark'd, but in which a regard to futurity more than preſent ſatisfaction had ſway'd him. My mother gladly accepted his propoſal, and from that time he ſeem'd to bend all his thoughts to my welfare. He undertook the firſt care of my education himſelf, and after he had conducted me a great way on the road of ſcience, he provided me with ſuch maſters as were neceſſary to finiſh my education. I ſhall paſs over ſeveral things, which in reflection are pleaſing, to come to the æra of my woes. I was one day invited to the celebration of a young gentleman's nuptials; there was a good deal of company, and amongſt them a young lady, daughter to a rich Hamburgh merchant. I can't ſay I was ſtruck at firſt ſight, nor perhaps wou'd her beauty have made any impreſſion on me, if a whiſper had not gone round among the ladies, that Miſs Vanriel and Mr. Vincent were vaſtly alike, and that it certainly wou'd be a match; it was loud enough to be heard, and made me look at the lady, who heard it alſo, and that, and my gazing, occaſion'd a bluſh, which heighten'd her charms. I cou'd ſee no reſemblance of my own features in her face, but I thought her extremely pretty. Cards were brought, and in caſting for partners, it was my lot

lot to fall to miſs Vanriel; this caus'd a ſecond whiſper, but another chance gave it the deciſive blow; after ſupper, there was a ball, and a diſpute ariſing between two gentlemen on the choice of partners, 'twas unanimouſly agreed, that the ladies names ſhould be wrote, and the gentlemen draw them. I was one of the laſt, and when I open'd my chance, behold miſs Vanriel was the lady. Here the raillery became publick, and I was forç'd, in my own defence, to declare myſelf her adorer; ſhe did not want for ſpirit, and our new amour not only diverted ourſelves, but made excellent diverſion for the whole company. I met her ſeveral times ſoon after at this acqaintance's, where we both frequently viſited, and as we never fail'd to jeſt on our paſſion, we at laſt brought it to earneſt. She would have refus'd liſtening to my ſuit, as her father was abroad, and ſhe thought ſhe ought not to diſpoſe of her inclinations without his conſent, but I found means to obviate the difficulties ſhe rais'd, and to make her conſent to receive my viſits; ſhe was at that time very intent on learning the Italian language, for the benefit of underſtanding Operas, of which ſhe was very fond; and I perſuaded her, that I, being perfect in that language, cou'd teach it her, much ſooner than a maſter wou'd, as they being paid for their time, wou'd ſpin it out as long as poſſible. She yielded to my arguments, and under the name of teaching her Italian, I had liberty to ſee her as often as I pleas'd. Indeed I found her an apt ſcholar, and made her very ſoon able to anſwer my ſuit in Italian. I promis'd eternal conſtancy, and to wait with patience her father's return, but begg'd ſhe wou'd give me the ſatisfaction of declaring me firſt in her eſteem; ſhe was generous enough not only to do that, but to proteſt againſt marrying any body elſe, let her father's will be what it wou'd. Satisfied with

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this I ſtaid with patience for his return, happy in the aſſurance of her love equalling my own.

As my uncle ſeldom inquir'd where I went, or what I did, and was always ſatisfied with ſuch accounts as I thought proper to give him, he knew nothing of this affair. I know not why, but I never cou'd perſuade myſelf to tell him of it, tho' it might, perhaps, have prevented all my ſorrows, if I had. Her father at laſt came home, and brought with him a man deſtin'd to make me and my dear Miſs Vanriel for ever wretched. He was a Dutch captain, one of the moſt brutiſh and diſagreeable men that ever came out of the country, or belong'd to the navy; however, he was rich, and in a fit of illneſs Mr. Vanriel had had, during his abſence, had ſhewn ſo much care, that he determin'd to reward him, by making him his ſon-in-law. He declared his intention to his daughter, ſoon after his arrival, and on her teſtifying her diſlike to him, he told her, that he wou'd confine and ſtarve her into compliance, and actually began to put the firſt part of his threat into execution: I went as uſual to viſit her, but was denied admittance; I repeated my viſit, when her father and lover coming out of the parlour, aſk'd me what buſineſs I had with her? I addreſs'd myſelf to the former, and telling him my name and expectations, ſaid that I hop'd he wou'd not refuſe his conſent to make me and his daughter happy, and was going on, when he flew into a violent rage, and ordered the ſervants to turn me out of the houſe. I drew, and defending myſelf, told him I wou'd not quit it, till he had given me ſatisfaction for the affront he had put upon me; at this he catch'd up a long ſtick, while his intended ſon did the ſame, and one beat my ſword out of my hand while the other knock'd me down, and the ſervants ran into the

ſtreet,

ſtreet, bawling murder, and ſoon rais'd a mob about us. The conſtables were called, and Mr. Vanriel and his family, made it appear very clearly to them, that I had enter'd the houſe with an intention to ſteal his daughter and murder him, and to prevent my executing my wicked purpoſes, a warrant was procur'd, and I was carried before a juſtice, who committed me to the Gatehouſe.

The ill uſage I had receiv'd, together with my hopeleſs love, made me regardleſs of what followed, and I ſuffer'd myſelf to be carried thither very quietly. As ſoon as I enter'd, the crew gather'd about me, and one ſingling me out, aſk'd me for what I was brought thither, and if I had no friends to whom I cou'd apply? I replied, that indeed I cou'd not tell what my crime was, and that I did not care what became of me. You appear, ſaid he, to be a gentleman, and certainly have ſome relations or friends who can ſerve you, and money here, as well as every where elſe, is every thing. I told him indeed I had friends, but I did not chuſe to trouble 'em, that I only wiſh'd to die in peace. Come, ſir, return'd he, cheer up your ſpirits, you will be of another way of thinking; I'll procure you a meſſenger, and do you write to your friends, never think of dying at your age, come, there's no help arrives too ſoon. I yielded to his perſuaſions, and wrote an almoſt unintelligible note to my uncle, to acquaint him with my confinement. He did not however get it till next day, and when he came to ſeek for me, I was going thro' my examination. Here the partiality of juſtice was fully prov'd; I had in vain proteſted my innocence of the crimes I was charg'd with; my antagoniſts had ſo far the ſuperiority, that my mittimus was order'd to be made out, when my uncle enter'd the hall: the ſight of him a little reviv'd my droop-

drooping ſpirits, and his requeſting a ſecond hearing, gave me ſome hopes. My uncle had long had the character of an able lawyer; this, his weight in the higher courts, his fortune and his relationſhip to me, all pleaded in my favour, I was found not only innocent but injur'd; and the bruiſes I had receiv'd were urg'd as reaſons for my ſuing for damages. I was not litigiouſly inclin'd, and my uncle was above taking the advantages his appearance had given me; I was ſatisfied with being releas'd and he left the proſecutors to decide the affair by themſelves, and conducted me home.

He was ſtill ignorant of the cauſe of this fray, and deſir'd I wou'd inform him: I was but little diſpos'd to do ſo, but my duty and late obligations, oblig'd me to endeavour at it: he lamented that I had not acquainted him with it at firſt, as he might then have wrote to Mr. Vanriel, and that in ſuch terms as might have biaſs'd him in my favour. He then endeavour'd to comfort me, and as there were no hopes remaining, adviſ'd me to forget her; his arguments were vain, I fell violently ill, a fever ſeiz'd my brain, and in my delirium I conſtantly rav'd on my dear miſs Vanriel. Touch'd with my calamity, he went to her cruel father, and us'd every argument he cou'd to prevail with him to break with the Dutchman, and conſent to her marrying me: but he was inflexible. The moſt ſkilful phyſicians were call'd to my aid, and it was the will of heav'n that I ſhould recover my ſenſes, and my health amended, tho' ſlowly. As ſoon as I was a little better, I aſk'd after Miſs Vanriel; my uncle ſtrove to turn the diſcourſe, but I begg'd to know what was become of her. I ſaid I had given up all hope of ever being happy, that I could not be made more wretched by any thing he cou'd tell me, and

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it wou'd be a ſatisfaction to know the worſt. He then told me, that ſhe was married, and gone abroad. O heavens! what did I ſuffer at hearing this account! 'twas not the bare loſing her gave me pain, I knew her love, her truth and her delicacy, and that nothing but force cou'd make her wed; I gueſs'd at her ſufferings by my own, and if I was miſerable in being ſever'd from her, what muſt ſhe be, who was not only parted from me, whom ſhe loved, but tied to one ſhe hated! my fever returned, and it was next to a miracle that I again recover'd. I was ſent to Bath, Briſtol, &c. but O! there was no phyſician that cou'd miniſter to a mind diſeas'd, or from the memory pluck a rooted ſorrow! I returned to London better indeed in health, but in ſpirits not at all amended. Lord L.----- was juſt going on his travels. He was then a promiſing young gentleman, and by his behaviour, and juſt way of thinking, gave the world an earneſt of what he has ſince prov'd. He came to take his leave of me, and told my uncle, that he wiſh'd I was to accompany him, as he had a great notion the finer air of thoſe climates he was going to viſit, wou'd be efficacious in eſtabliſhing my health. My uncle anſwer'd, that if I thought ſo, and lik'd it, he wou'd gladly conſent. I ſignified my approbation; a conſultation of phyſicians was held, who agreed, that it was the beſt thing I cou'd do. I took leave of my uncle and mother, and of the latter for the laſt time, ſhe dying while I was in Italy.

I ſhall not trouble you with an account of our travels, you have undoubtedly read much better than I can give, even if my ill health and ſpirits had not prevented my taking notice of many things worthy attention; however, I muſt do this juſtice to the air

air of the more ſouthern parts of Europe, I found myſelf, after a few months abſence from England, conſiderably better; nor muſt I omit, that his lordſhip, tho' much younger, and free from care, omitted nothing that cou'd give me ſatisfaction, or be of benefit to me.

At laſt we arriv'd at Rome, and I was by this time ſo much better, that I cou'd take pleaſure in viewing the curioſities and antiquities of a city ſo fam'd in hiſtory; and the reflections I made on the various changes it had undergone, not only to lord L----, but in my letters to my friends, almoſt convinc'd them of what they had ſo long wiſh'd.

We began to think of leaving Rome, when his lordſhip, having a mind to purchaſe ſome pictures, was recommended to a famous painter call'd ſignior Lucci. We went to ſee his paintings; after he had ſhewn us a great many of his own, and ſome of other very good maſters, I have a piece, ſaid he, which, as you are Engliſhmen, will pleaſe you perhaps more than any you have ſeen, it is drawn by a country woman of yours, and in my opinion excellent; he then carried us to a cloſet where he kept this famous picture, and drawing a curtain which hid it, there, gentlemen, ſays he, I only ſhew this to my beſt cuſtomers, to induce them to deal with me. We look'd at the picture, and immediately I found myſelf affected with the objects it contained. In the middle ſat an old man, and on his right ſide ſtood a young woman, whom he held by the hand, and ſeem'd pauſing which way he ſhould give her, tho' by his eyes being turn'd to the left, it ſeem'd already determin'd: on the right appear'd a young man, kneeling on one knee, and offering a heart, and on the left, a middle aged man holding out a

purſe; behind the former, were the graces, love, peace and joy, and behind the latter, a ſea in a ſtorm, on it a ſhip toſs'd by the waves; the ſame man who offer'd the purſe, got into a boat which ſeem'd rowing from the ſhip, and the young woman, repreſented in the middle of the picture, ſtanding on the deck, imploring help, while the man in the boat ſeem'd, by his looks, to refuſe it.

I gaz'd ſome time attentively on the picture; 'twas ſo expreſſive, I cou'd not miſtake; I cried out, O my lord, this muſt be miſs Vanriel! Tell me, ſignior, where did you get it? I had it, ſir; ſaid he, of the perſon who painted it, and ſhe ſays it is her own hiſtory. Where is ſhe? cried I; ſhe is now in the houſe, return'd he, but how long ſhe'll be here I know not, ſhe's almoſt at her journey's end. Here my ſenſes forſook me, I ſunk down in a fainting fit, to hear ſhe was ſo near me, and ſo near death; ſuch extremes of joy and grief meeting, were not to be ſupported. They brought me to myſelf, and the painter told me, ſhe had liv'd a good while with his wife, that ſhe was brought to Rome by his brother, and had been for ſome months very ill, and the phyſicians had but little hopes of her. I begg'd to ſee her, but lord L----, by the account we had heard, thought the ſurprize wou'd be too much for her, and deſired the painter to inform her a gentleman from England, pleas'd with her works, deſired the favour of ſeeing her. His lordſhip was admitted, and pretended to recollect having ſeen her in England, and by degrees inform'd her how near I was, in ſuch a manner as prevented the conſequences we had apprehended from too ſudden a ſurprize. I waited impatiently for his lordſhip's return, who at laſt came to introduce me to her. Words cannot deſcribe what I felt when I ſaw her! how was ſhe alter'd ſince I beheld her laſt!

pale,

pale, wan, dejected, yet a little glimmering of joy appear'd, when I approach'd her: for ſome minutes we both were ſilent, and when we cou'd ſpeak, 'twas almoſt unintelligible.

By degrees we recover'd the uſe of ſpeech, when each had a load of queſtions to aſk; the ſubject of my anſwers you have already heard, this was the ſubſtance of hers.

As ſoon as my father came home, he teſtified his intention of forcing me to marry a man, who, if my heart had even been free, I never cou'd have lik'd; but vain were all the reaſons I could urge, I even ventur'd to declare my prepoſſeſſion in your favour, but this only made him more deſperate, and was indeed the cauſe of all your misfortunes and mine. He then confin'd me, and prevented all means of my eſcaping, or acquainting you with my fate: this wou'd not have been ſufficient, for I had reſolv'd, to die, rather than be falſe, but he told me of your aſſault, that you were confin'd, and that nothing but my conſenting to wed his friend, ſhou'd ſave you from death, as he wou'd, on no other conditions, drop the proceſs, and that if it was continued, your life, muſt, by courſe of law, become the forfeit. Overcome by tenderneſs, deceiv'd by his ſtory, ignorant of your real ſituation, I yielded, and gave my hand to the man my heart abhorr'd. O how dreadful, even now, does that terrible period appear! but heaven, who puniſh'd my perjury, in mercy ſav'd me from a continuance of that puniſhment. I left England a few days after the ſolemnization of my deteſted nuptials; my huſband was going a voyage to Naples and Leghorn, and in a pretended fit of fondneſs, inſiſted on my going with him. Life was no longer life to me, 'twas but wretched exiſtence,

and equal where I paſt it; we embark'd, and for ſome time the winds were favourable to us; but when we were almoſt within ſight of port, a ſtorm aroſe; the ſhip was but crazy and unable to weather it, and the ſailors declar'd, that thoſe who choſe life, muſt make their eſcape as they could; my huſband was one of thoſe, and ſecuring as much of his valuable effects as he could, the long boat was hoiſted, and he enter'd it it, together with as many of the ſhip's crew as it would hold. Much as I had wiſh'd for death, yet it now appear'd dreadful, and I begg'd him to ſave my life, but the Savage ſaid, it was enough if he preſerv'd his own, he had no time to ſpare on a wife who hated him. And bidding the ſailors make the beſt uſe of their oars, he left me on board the hulk, with three or four ſick men. I thought my fate was juſt, and ſat down patiently, waiting for death, which now ſeem'd inevitable. The ſtorm abated, and the next morning we eſpied a ſhip pretty near us; the poor ſailors, my wretched companions, fir'd a gun as a ſignal of diſtreſs, and the ſhip crouding all the ſail ſhe cou'd, ſoon reach'd us; ſhe was a merchant man, bound to Civitta Vecchia, her maſter the brother of ſignior Lucci; he came on board, and was much affected with the miſerable appearance I and my fellow ſufferers made. I told him my ſtory, and he order'd his men to remove us, and what effects remained, into his ſhip, and brought us ſafe to port; his kindneſs to us is truly praiſe worthy. When we were landed, he aſk'd me what I choſe to do? if I propos'd returning to England, he would enquire for a ſhip to carry me thither; but my mother country was no longer dear to me. I told him ſo, and he recommended his brother and ſiſter to me, as people with whom I might live quietly at leaſt. I embrac'd his propoſal; on which he

had

had my effects ſold, and gave me the money; I diſtributed part amongſt the poor ſailors who had ſhar'd my dangers, and then ſet out for Rome, where, I met with a reception beyond my expectations: ſignior Lucci has been in England, and from the civilities he receiv'd there, conceiv'd a favourable opinion of me, and my knowledge of the Italian tongue recommended me to his wife; alas little did either of us think, when you taught it me, what occaſion I ſhould have for it! As I was but lonely at my arrival, I applied myſelf to drawing for amuſement; and by Signior Lucci's inſtructions, obtain'd ſome degree of proficiency, and cou'd colour pretty well, when I took it in my head to paint my own hiſtory; the deſign was my own, tho' I muſt do my maſter the juſtice to confeſs that he help'd me in the principal parts. When it was finiſh'd, he admir'd it ſo much that I made him a preſent of it, as a ſmall return for his and his wife's civility. This is my whole ſtory, what remains need not be to'd; the depreſſion of my ſpirits has reach'd my body, and tho' my good friends have ſpar'd no pains, yet their care is ineffectual. I am haſtening to my diſſolution, and it will be more pleaſing, as I have ſeen you firſt, and have it in my power to aſſure you, that my love is ſtill the ſame, as in our happier hours it was.

Here ſhe ended, and pierc'd my heart, more than ten thouſand daggers cou'd have done; for,

O the killing torture,
To think twas love, exceſs of love, divorc'd us!

My dear propheteſs ſpoke too true, ſhe ſurviv'd but three weeks after I found her; but before her death made me promiſe in the moſt ſolemn manner,

to attempt nothing againſt my life; I obey'd her, and ſtill drag on the heavy load. I have already tir'd your patience, therefore ſhall paſs over all I have ſuffer'd ſince, and now tell me, are your calamities worthy to be compar'd to mine? or do yours, after the relation of my ſufferings, deſerve that name?"

Frederick was ſo much affected with Mr. Vincent's narration, that his own troubles began to diſappear, and on compariſon, ſeem'd only imaginary. He determin'd to forget 'em, and ſtudy to revive his friend: he cou'd perceive, that a good deal was owing to conſtitution, and the recluſe life he led, he thought if he cou'd once get him to engage in the gay ſcenes of life, it wou'd diſſipate thoſe cares which he now cheriſh'd; and as he cou'd not imagine a conſtancy after the object who caus'd it was no more, any way meritorious, he thought it his duty to ſtrive to break it.

He at firſt found it difficult, but his perſuaſions prevail'd, and Mr. Vincent, who for ſome years paſt, had been at no places of publick reſort, began to have a taſte for them, and as that taſte increaſed, his melancholy began to wear off.

As Frederick and he were one day ſitting in a coffee-houſe, two gentlemen came in, whom the former immediately knew to be his old acquaintances, Mr. Vaughan, and Mr. Kemp, mention'd in the former part of theſe memoirs. He immediately addreſs'd the former, who was equally ſurpris'd and pleas'd at ſeeing him, and the appearance he made. Mr. Vaughan told him, that by his father's death, he was become maſter of a plentiful fortune, and aſſur'd him, that he had not forgot the promiſe he had made at their laſt meeting, and that if he cou'd

ſerve

ſerve him, by money or friends, he begg'd he would command him. Mr. Kemp was pleas'd to recollect him, and ſaid with a ſarcaſtic ſmile, 'I imagine, 'ſir, you have acquir'd a more competent know-'ledge of the world now, than when I had laſt the 'pleaſure of ſeeing you, and to quote from your 'favourite author,

Can look on guilt, rebellion, fraud, and Cæſar,
In the calm lights of mild philoſophy.'

Frederick put on a very ſerious air, and was going to anſwer, when Mr. Kemp proceeded, 'For-'give me, ſir, for hinting at what's paſt; I aſſure 'you, I admir'd you then, for your ſpirit; and tho' 'I deſerv'd the rebukes you gave me, I am not mean 'enough to wiſh to reſent them; on the contrary, I 'ſhall be proud of your acquaintance, which I beg 'I may ſhare.'

It is happy for them that all cowards and baſe men, are not fools, or the world wou'd ſoon deſert them; for tho' Frederick cou'd not help deſpiſing Mr. Kemp, yet he cou'd not refuſe this requeſt, and an agreement was inſtantly made, that they ſhou'd ſpend the remainder of the day together: and this day was only the introduction to many others, which were paſs'd in the ſame manner.

Mr. Vaughan had a ſiſter, who liv'd in town with him, and he introduc'd his friends to her; Frederick had the happy art of making himſelf agreeable to whatever company he kept; and, can it be credited? Mr. Vincent, found a ſtrong deſire to appear ſo to miſs Vaughan! in ſhort, he declar'd to Frederick, that notwithſtanding his frequent proteſtations againſt a ſecond love, he thought her worthy

to

to ſucceed miſs Vanriel, and cou'd he hope a return, ſhou'd think himſelf happy.

Frederick undertook to break the matter to Mr. Vaughan, and Mr. Vincent's character and expectations were too good to meet with any objections from him. The lady, who had a great opinion of her brother's judgment, reſolv'd to follow his advice, and old Mr. Vincent, who earneſtly wiſh'd to ſee his nephew married, but never dared to propoſe it, was quite delighted, and look'd on Frederick as the reſtorer of happineſs to his family.

This ſet of acquaintance introduc'd our hero into a much genteeler circle than he had yet known; 'tis true, he had been diſtinguiſh'd by ſeveral men of faſhion, but his female acquaintance, Mrs. Johnſon excepted, were entirely compos'd of thoſe, who by their indiſcretion had forfeited all right to honourable diſtinction.

Among thoſe whom he was introduc'd to, by miſs Vaughan's means, was a lady, more famous for the largeneſs of her fortune, and her innocently gay life, than her beauty. She was young, agreeable and independant.

Frederick, on a very ſlight acquaintance with her, conceiv'd a very high opinion of her merit; he cou'd not help obſerving, tho' he did it with pain, that the pretended Mrs. Broderick's obſervation was very true, with regard to miſs Edwards (for that was the lady's name) 'That it is dangerous for a young wo-'man of fortune, to have the diſpoſal of herſelf:' he ſaw many things in her, which he wiſh'd otherwiſe, and which he was convinc'd proceeded from youth, gaiety of temper and affluence, and which

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he believ'd ſhe wou'd amend, if they were but hinted to her as faults. He found himſelf intereſted in her welfare, and reſolv'd to attempt it.

He had once, in a jocular way, an opportunity of declaring himſelf her admirer, tho' he had not preſumption enough to think it wou'd be to any purpoſe. The diſcourſe happen'd afterwards to turn on poetry, and ſome ladies who were preſent, gave it as their opinion, that love was the beſt poet maker. Miſs Edwards turn'd to Frederick, ſaying, 'Captain, 'is it ſo? I believe it is; and if you have a mind to 'convince me you are in love with me, you muſt by 'ten to morrow, ſend me a ſpick and ſpan copy of 'verſes, fill'd with my charms and your paſſion.' Frederick bow'd, as a token of his obedience to her commands; and tho' he had not applied much to the tuneful nine, he immediately reſolv'd, aſſiſted by thoſe Deities, to give her ſome advice: 'twas a very delicate point, and he was often divided in his opinion, but at length finding her reputation dearer to him than the cenſure his freedom might incur wou'd coſt him, he wrote the following.

On Edwards, whoſe reſiſtleſs charms
Each fond beholder's boſom warms,
For ever cou'd I gaze.
But ſhe, tho' young, has learn'd the art
Of giving torment to the heart,
A thouſand cruel ways.

Sweet blooming nymph, in time be wiſe,
Maintain the conqueſt of your eyes,
And let your ſhepherd find,
Tho' you unnumber'd beauties boaſt,
The charms which captivate him moſt,
Are in your lovely mind.

Leave to the ſly deſigning fair,
The prude's reſerve, the coquet air,
With every ſtudied grace,
Be innocence alone your guide,
And all your ornament and pride
In native honour place.

So when deſtroying time ſhall fade
The glories of that form, bright maid,
For which you're now deſir'd,
Wiſdom and undecaying truth,
Triumphant o'er the charms of youth,
Shall make you ſtill admir'd.

When he had finiſh'd, he examin'd it with great caution, to ſee if there was any thing in it, which cou'd give offence: he thought he had ſucceeded very well, and that the complimentary part wou'd atone for the advice it contain'd.

He did not chuſe to wait on her with it himſelf, but about the hour of tea drinking and ſcandal all over the kingdom, he wrote a very polite letter, in which he inclos'd it, and diſpatch'd his ſervant with it. He had order'd him to wait, in caſe the lady ſhou'd pleaſe to honour him with an anſwer, and the anxiety he felt in that interval, convinc'd him of what he had only ſuſpected before, that he really lov'd her. His doubts were eas'd by the appearance of his man, who gave him the following billet.

Sir,

Sir,

I thank you for your poetry, commend your ſincerity, and will endeavour to follow your counſel.

I am, &c. &c.

Louiſa Edwards.

The raptures he felt at reading this ſhort epiſtle, are paſt deſcription; for a while he was loſt in the delightful ideas it rais'd, but a little reflection brought to his mind his obſcure birth, his want of fortune, and the inſignificancy of his commiſſion. A lieutenant of foot aſpire at fifteen hundred a year! a prodigy in nature: all his blooming hopes vaniſh'd and he utter'd, in a deſpairing accent,

Conceal, fond man, conceal the mighty ſmart,
Nor tell Louiſa, ſhe has fir'd thy heart,
She's too much thy ſuperior to comply,
And too, too fair, to let thy paſſion die.

He found his love increaſe with his deſpair, and had he been left to himſelf, he might have experienc'd all the pangs poor Mr. Vincent had done, but his engagements were now become ſo numerous, that they diſſipated that pain his paſſion wou'd otherwiſe have caus'd. Miſs Edwards had an almoſt univerſal acquaintance, and her houſe was reſorted to by all the gay people of faſhion of both ſexes. Frederick frequently made one there, and tho' he had the pleaſure to obſerve that ſhe treated him with kindneſs, yet he was pain'd to ſee her beſtow attention on coxcombs, who only viſited her to ſhew their lace and embroidery,

embroidery, and loſe their money genteelly. He wiſh'd to have it in his power to remonſtrate to her on that topic, but fear kept him ſilent, and he continued to admire and pity her. The longer he was acquainted with her, the more he admir'd her; her generoſity, ſincerity, and juſtneſs of thinking, charm'd him; but her profuſion and coquetry gave him unſpeakable concern. He knew the cenſoriouſneſs of the world, and that where one, like himſelf, wou'd applaud her real merit, ten wou'd find out, and expoſe her foibles. An accidental affair prov'd his love and her folly more fully than any thing hitherto had done; one evening as he was going home, he ſaw a hackney coach ſtop at a noted uſurer's, and out of it came a lady, who tho' very much muffled up, he diſcover'd to be miſs Edwards; her going into the houſe, excited his curioſity, and he conceal'd himſelf near the door, till he ſaw her come out, and go into the coach again: he wiſh'd to know her buſineſs there, and knocking at the door, aſk'd if they had any lodgers? on their replying in the negative, he aſk'd who the lady was, who had juſt been there? on perceiving they heſitated in anſwering, he told them he had a very particular reaſon for his being ſo inquiſitive, that it wou'd give him the utmoſt ſatisfaction to know her errand, and gave them the moſt ſerious aſſurances, that it ſhou'd be no prejudice to them or the lady, if they wou'd inform him. After ſome delay, the woman told him, the lady was an entire ſtranger to her, and that ſhe did not even know her name; that having preſſing occaſion for money, ſhe had applied to them, and that they had lent her two hundred pounds on ſome jewels. Frederick was amazed, but begged to ſee them, and on their being ſhewn, knew them perfectly well, for thoſe he had often ſeen her wear. He thank'd the woman for her obligingneſs, and re-

re-aſſured her of his ſecrecy, and took his leave with an aching heart. Good heavens! cried he, is it poſſible that my Louiſa can be reduc'd to this! what an ebb muſta woman be at when ſhe can conſent to part with her ornaments! O this curſed gaming! 'tis to that it muſt be owing. Some debt of honour contracted laſt night at the maſquerade, has cauſed this, and if ſhe had not taken this method to pay, perhaps ſhe muſt have done it with her honour. Cruel thought! that a woman of her ſenſe, her fortune, ſhould make herſelf a companion for ſharpers! I muſt find a way to reſtore them to her. What will her malicious acquaintance ſay, when they ſee her without thoſe gems, which indeed gave no luſtre to her, but ſhe illuſtrated them; why, why is ſhe ſo bewitch'd! a train of thoughts of this kind would force their way, before he could think of what he ſo ardently deſired, how he could ſerve her: pity and indignation by turns poſſeſſed him, and all ſubſided into love, and a reſolution not to reſt, 'till he had procured money to redeem them.

Had he known the true circumſtances of the caſe, his admiration of her wou'd have been heighten'd. 'Tis true ſhe was extravagant, and her itch for play frequently drained her purſe to the laſt guinea, but her benevolence, even exceeded that, and ſhe wou'd leave herſelf without a ſhilling, rather than ſee a fellow-creature diſtreſs'd; her ear was open to every woe, while her hand reliev'd every object that implor'd her aſſiſtance. It happened at this very time, that ſhe was very ſhort of money, when a perſon, who had been her ſchool-fellow, wrote a very moving letter, begging her aſſiſtance. She went immediately herſelf, to ſee how ſhe cou'd be ſerviceable, and met a ſight which affected her too

ch to give her time to ſtudy an excuſe. This perſon was unfortunately married; her huſband was arreſted, threaten'd with a jail, and herſelf and children with beggary! Louiſa's tender heart melted at the ſcene, ſhe went directly to her banker, but he begg'd leave to defer complying with her demands for a few days; ſhe then drove to a female friend's, in order to borrow money, but meeting with an excuſe, her impatience prevail'd, ſhe ſent home her chariot, took a hackney-coach, and concealing her face as much as ſhe cou'd, pull'd off her jewels, and diſpos'd of them as has been related, and flew to reſtore comfort to her oppreſſed friend.

Frederick recollected the profeſſions Mr. Vaughan had frequently made to him, he went directly to him, to try the force of them, and told him, that he had an immediate occaſion for two hundred pounds, which if he cou'd lend him, it wou'd be of the utmoſt ſervice, and he wou'd give him whatever ſecurity he pleas'd. Mr. Vaughan anſwer'd, that indeed he had not that ſum by him, but that he knew Kemp cou'd ſupply him, and that he wou'd go with him, and if he ſcrupled his ſecurity, he wou'd give his bond for it. Frederick, tho' by no means fond of Kemp, nor wou'd he at any other time have receiv'd a favour from him, readily embraced this propoſal. Thither they went, and luckily found Mr. Kemp at home; who yielded to the force of their joint rhetorick, and furniſh'd Frederick with the ſum he requeſted.

Frederick went towards the uſurer's with much more joy than he had left it, but recollecting, that they might ſcruple to deliver the jewels to him, and that moreover, Louiſa might then diſcover

cover his officiouſneſs, which he wiſh'd to be conceal'd, in order to ſave her from the confuſion he knew ſuch a diſcovery wou'd occaſion, he reſolv'd to employ his landlady, on whoſe diſcretion and fidelity he cou'd depend; he therefore went home, but found it too late to ſend her that night; but early the next morning he diſpatch'd her with the money, and a proper premium for the loan, and ſhe return'd with the jewels.

When he had got 'em, he was as much at a loſs, in what manner he ſhou'd reſtore them to the beloved owner; at laſt he wrote the following epiſtle, which he carefully ſealed up, with the jewels, and ſent them by a chairman, whom he order'd to deliver the parcel to a ſervant, and return directly; and to prevent a diſcovery, he went to a coffee-houſe, in which he was unknown, where he enquir'd for the meſſenger he ſent. The letter was as follows.

Madam,

YOUR guardian angel commands me to reſtore theſe ornaments, the care of which is in my peculiar charge; and to beg that for the future, your love for them may prevail over your paſſion for their painted nameſakes, as not only the again loſing theſe, but gems of far more ineſtimable value may be the fatal conſequence of the continuance of that unhappy propenſity. I am, madam,

Yours, &c, &c.

Brilliante.

Louiſa's aſtoniſhment on receiving this epiſtle and what accompanied it, was beyond expreſſion. Frederick had wrote it in a character very different from any thing ſhe had ever ſeen of his, nor cou'd ſhe gueſs at the author. She had ſeen nobody, during the tranſaction, that ſhe knew, nor had ſhe told any body of it; ſhe cou'd not conceive to whom ſhe was indebted; ſhe even went to the uſurer's, and aſk'd who had redeem'd them, but cou'd gather no lights from thence, therefore ſat down to reconſider the letter; every word of which ſhe comprehended perfectly well, and determin'd to reſtrain her love for play.

Frederick ſaw her ſoon after, and was pleas'd to ſee her look more ſerious than ever he had obſerv'd her; ſhe was juſt then meditating on the late adventure, and puzzling her brains with gueſſing at the author, but tho' the very perſon was before her, ſhe never once ſuſpected him.

The END of the FIRST VOLUME.